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GRECIAN DAUGHTER

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THE GRECIAN DAUGHTER

ARTHUR MURPHY

Arthur Murphy

University of California

At Los Angeles

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T H E

Grecian Daughter.

[Price 1s. 6d.]

C^a

T H E

Grecian Daughter.

[Price 1s. 6d.]

T H E

Grecian Daughter:

A

T R A G E D Y:

As it is acted at the

T H E A T R E - R O Y A L

I N

D R U R Y - L A N E.

Τι τὸς ἄνωθεν φρονιμωτάτης
Οἰωνὸς ἑσορώμενοι
Τροφᾶς κηδομένης, ἀφ' ὧν τε
Βλαστῶσιν, ἀφ' ὧν τ' ὄνησιν εὐρω-
σι, τὰδ' ἐκ ἑπίσης τελεῖται

SOPHOC. ELECT.

T H E S E C O N D E D I T I O N .

L O N D O N :

Printed for W. GRIFFIN, at GARRICK'S HEAD,
in Catharine-Street, Strand.

MDCCLXXII.

92307

THE

Grecian Daughter;

A

TRAGEDY.

As it is acted at the

THEATRE ROYAL

IN

DRURY-LANE.

By the Author of
"The Grecian Daughter,"
"The Jew," &c.
&c.

Second Edition.

THE SECOND EDITION

LONDON:

Printed by W. Gifford, at Garrick's Head,
in Cornhill Street, Strand.

MDCCLXXXII.

P R O L O G U E.

Spoken by Mr. W E S T O N. PR

He peeps in at the Stage Door. 3605
M 9 3
1742

H I P! music! music!—Have you more to play?
Somewhat I'd offer——Stop your cat-gut, pray.

Will you permit, and not pronounce me rude,
A bookseller one moment to intrude?
My name is Fools-cap :—Since you saw me last,
Fortune hath given me a rare helping cast.
To all my toils a wife hath put a stop——
A devil then ; but now I keep a shop.
My master died, poor man !—He's out of print !
His widow,—she had eyes and took my hint.
A prey to grief, she could not bear to be,
And so turn'd over a new leaf with me.

I drive a trade ; have authors in my pay,
Men of all work, per week, per sheet, per day.
TRAV'LLERS—who not one foreign country know ;
And PAST'RAL POETS—in the sound of Bow.
TRANSLATORS—From the Greek they never read,
CANTABS and SOPHS—in Covent Garden bred.
HISTORIANS, who can't write ;—who only take
Scissars and paste ;—cut, vamp ; a book they make,

I've treated for this play ; can buy it too,
If I could learn what you intend to do.
If for nine nights you'll bear this tragic stuff ;
I have a news-paper, and there can puff.

A news-paper does wonders !—None can be
In debt, in love, dependant or quite free,
Ugly or handsome, well, or ill in bed,
Single or married, or alive or dead,
But we give life, death, virtue, vice with ease ;
In short a news-paper does what we please.

There

There jealous authors at each other bark;
 Till truth leaves not one glimpse, no, not one spark;
 But lies meet lies and juggle in the dark. }
 Our bard within has often felt the dart
 Sent from our quiver, levell'd at his heart.
 I've press'd him, ere he plays this desp'rate game,
 To answer all, and vindicate his name.
 But he, convinc'd that all but truth must die,
 Leaves to its own mortality the lie.
 Would any know,—while parties fight pellmell,
 How he employs his pen?—his play will tell.
 To that he trusts; that he submits to you,
 Aim'd at your tend'rest feelings,—moral,—new.
 The scenes, he hopes, will draw the heart-felt tear;
 Scenes that come home to ev'ry bosom here.

If this will do, I'll run and buy it straight;
 Stay—Let me see;—I think I'd better wait— }
 Yes;—I'll lie snug, till you have fix'd it's fate.

E P I L O G U E.

Written by a F R I E N D,

And Spoken by Miss YOUNGE.

THE GRECIAN DAUGHTER's compliments to all;
 Begs that for Epilogue you will not call;
 For leering, giggling would be out of season,
 And hopes by me you'll hear a little reason.
 A father rais'd from death, a nation sav'd,
 A tyrant's crimes by female spirit brav'd,
 That tyrant stabb'd, and by her nerveless arm,
 While Virtue's spell surrounding guards could charm!

Can

Can she, this sacred tumult in her breast,
 Turn Father, Freedom, Virtue, all to jest?
 Wake you, ye fair ones, from your sweet repose,
 As wanton zephyrs wake the sleeping rose;
 Dispel those clouds, which o'er your eyelids crept,
 Which our wise Bard mistook, and swore you wept.
 Shall she to MACARONIES life restore,
 Who yawn'd, half dead, and curs'd the tragic BORE?
 Dismiss 'em, smirking, to their nightly haunt,
 Where dice and cards their moon-struck minds enchant?
 Some muffled, like the witches in Macbeth,
 Brood o'er the magic circle, pale as death!
 Others, *the cauldron go about—about—*
 And Ruin enters, as the Fates run out!

Bubble, bubble,
 Toil and trouble,
 Passions burn,
 And bets are double!
 Double! double!
 Toil and trouble,
 Passions burn,
 And all is bubble!

But jests apart, for scandal forms these tales,
 Falsehood be mute—let Justice hold her scales:
 Britons were ne'er enslav'd by evil powr's;
 To peace, and wedded love, they give their midnight hours;
 From slumbers pure, no rattling dice can wake 'em!
 Who *make* the laws, were never known to *break* 'em.
 'Tis false, ye fair, whatever spleen may say,
 That you down Folly's tide are borne away;
 You never wish at deep distress to sneer;
 For eyes, tho' bright, are brighter thro' a tear.

Should it e'er be this Nation's wretched fate
 To laugh at all that's good, and wise, and great;
 Arm'd at all points, let Genius take the field,
 And on the stage afflicted Virtue shield,
 Drive from the land each base unworthy passion,
 Till Virtue triumph in despite of Fashion.

Dramatis Personæ.

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| EVANDER, | Mr. BARRY. |
| PHILOTAS, | Mr. REDDISH. |
| MELANTHON, | Mr. AICKIN. |
| PHOCION, | Mr. J. AICKIN. |
| DIONYSIUS, | Mr. PALMER. |
| ARCAS, | Mr. HURST. |
| GREEK HERALD, | Mr. PACKER. |
| CALIPPUS, | Mr. INCHBALD. |
| GREEK SOLDIER, | Mr. DAVIES. |
| OFFICER, | Mr. WHEELER. |
| EUPHRASIA, | Mrs. BARRY. |
| ERIXENE | Miss PLATT. |

Scene, S Y R A C U S E.

T H E

GRECIAN DAUGHTER:

A C T I.

Enter MELANTHON, and PHILOTAS.

Melan. YET, yet a moment; hear, Philotas, hear me.

Philo. No more; it must not be.

Melan. Obdurate man!

Thus wilt thou spurn me, when a king distress'd,
A good, a virtuous, venerable king,
The father of his people, from a throne
Which long with ev'ry virtue he adorn'd,
Torn by a ruffian, by a tyrant's hand,
Groans in captivity? In his own palace
Lives a sequester'd prisoner?—Oh! Philotas,
If thou hast not renounc'd humanity;
Let me behold my sovereign; once again
Admit me to his presence, let me see
My royal master.

Philo. Urge thy suit no further;
Thy words are fruitless; Dionysius' orders
Forbid access; he is our sov'reign now;
'Tis his to give the law, mine to obey.

B

Melan.

2 THE GRECIAN DAUGHTER:

Melan. Thou can’st not mean it—his to give the law !
 Detested spoiler !—his ! a vile usurper !
 Have we forgot the elder Dionysius,
 Surnam’d the Tyrant ? To Sicilia’s throne
 The monster waded thro’ whole seas of blood.
 Sore groan’d the land beneath his iron rod,
 Till rous’d at length Evander came from Greece,
 Like Freedom’s Genius came, and sent the tyrant
 Stript of the crown, and to his humble rank
 Once more reduc’d, to roam, for vile subsistence,
 A wandering sophist, thro’ the realms of Greece.

Philo. Melanthon, yes ; full clearly I remember
 The splendid day, when all rejoicing Sicily
 Hail’d her deliverer.

Melan. Shall the tyrant’s son
 Deduce a title from the father’s guilt ?
 Philotas, thou wert once the friend of goodness ;
 Thou art a Greek ; fair Corinth gave the birth ;
 I mark’d thy growing youth ; I need not tell,
 With what an equal sway Evander reign’d,
 How just, how upright, generous and good !
 From ev’ry region bards and sages came ;
 Whate’er of science antient Egypt stor’d,
 All that the East had treasur’d ; all that Greece
 Of moral wisdom taught, and Plato’s voice,
 Was heard in Sicily. Shall Dionysius
 Extinguish ev’ry virtue in the land,
 Bow to his yoke the necks of freeborn men,
 And here perpetuate a tyrant’s reign ?

Philo. Whate’er his right, to him in Syracuse
 All bend the knee ; his the supreme dominion,
 And death and torment wait his sovereign nod.

Mel. But soon that pow’r shall cease : behold his walls
 Now close encircled by the Grecian bands ;

Timoleon

Timoleon leads them on ; indignant Corinth
Sends her avenger forth, array'd in terror,
To hurl ambition from a throne usurp'd,
And bid all Sicily resume her rights.

Philo. Thou wert a statesman once, Melanthon ; now,
Grown dim with age, thy eye pervades no more
The deep-laid schemes which Dionysius plans.
Know then, a fleet from Carthage even now
Stems the rough billow, and, e'er yonder sun,
That now declining seeks the Western wave,
Shall to the shades of night resign the world,
Thou'lt see the Punic sails in yonder bay,
Whose waters wash the walls of Syracuse.

Melan. Art thou a stranger to Timoleon's name ?
Intent to plan, and circumspect to see
All possible events, he rushes on
Resistless in his course ! Your boasted master
Scarce stands at bay ; each hour the strong blockade
Hems him in closer, and ere long thou'lt view
Oppression's iron rod to fragments shiver'd !
The good Evander then——

Philo. Alas, Evander !
Will ne'er behold the golden time you look for.

Melan. How ! not behold it ! Say, Philotas, speak ;
Has the fell tyrant, have his felon murderers——

Philo. As yet, my friend, Evander lives.

Melan. And yet
Thy dark half-hinted purpose——Lead me to him——
If thou hast murder'd him——

Philo. By Heav'n he lives.

Melan. Then bless me with one tender interview.
Thrice has the sun gone down, since last these eyes
Have seen the good old king ; say, why is this ?

4 THE GRECIAN DAUGHTER:

Wherefore debar'd his presence? Thee, Philotas,
The troops obey that guard the royal pris'ner;
Each avenue to thee is open; thou
Can'st grant admittance; let me, let me see him.

Philo. Entreat no more; the soul of Dionysius
Is ever wakeful; rent with all the pangs
That wait on conscious guilt.

Melan. But when dun night——

Philo. Alas! it cannot be—But mark my words.
Let Greece urge on her general assault.
Dispatch some friend, who may o'er-leap the walls,
And tell Timoleon, the good old Evander
Has liv'd three days, by Dionysius' order,
Lock'd up from ev'ry sustenance of nature,
And life, now wearied out, almost expires.

Melan. If any spark of virtue dwell within thee,
Lead me, Philotas, lead me to his prison.

Philo. The tyrant's jealous care hath mov'd him thence.

Melan. Ha! mov'd him, say'st thou?

Philo. At the midnight hour,
Silent convey'd him up the steep ascent,
To where the elder Dionysius form'd,
On the sharp summit of the pointed rock,
Which overhangs the deep, a dungeon drear:
Cell within cell, a labyrinth of horror,
Deep cavern'd in the cliff, where many a wretch,
Unseen by mortal eye, has groan'd in anguish,
And died obscure, unpitied, and unknown.

Melan. Clandestine murderer! Yes, there's the scene
Of horrid massacre. Full oft I've walk'd,
When all things lay in sleep and darkness hush'd,
Yes, oft I've walk'd the lonely fullen beach,
And hear'd the mournful sound of many a corse

Plung'd

Plung'd from the rock into the wave beneath,
That murmur'd on the shore. And means he thus
To end a monarch's life? Oh! grant my pray'r,
My timely succour may protect his days;
The guard is yours——

Philo. Forbear; thou plead'st in vain;
I must not yield; it were assur'd destruction;
Farewell, dispatch a message to the Greeks;
I'll to my station; now thou know'st the worst. *[Exit.]*

MELANTHON.

Oh! lost Evander! Lost Euphrasia too!
How will her gentle nature bear the shock
Of a dear father, thus in ling'ring pangs
A prey to famine, like the veriest wretch
Whom the hard hand of misery hath grip'd!
In vain she'll rave with impotence of sorrow;
Perhaps provoke her fate:—Greece arms in vain;
All's lost; Evander dies.

Enter CALIPPUS.

Calip. Where is the king?
Our troops, that sallied to attack the foe,
Retire disordered; to the eastern gate
The Greeks pursue! Timoleon rides in blood!
Arm, arm, and meet their fury.

Melan. To the citadel
Direct thy footsteps; Dionysius there
Marshals a chosen band.

Calip. Do thou call forth
Thy hardy veterans; haste, or all is lost. *[Exit.]*

[Warlike music.]

MELANTHON.

6 THE GRECIAN DAUGHTER:

MELANTHON.

Now, ye just Gods, now look propitious down;
Now give the Grecian fabre tenfold edge,
And save a virtuous king.

[Warlike music.]

Enter EUPHRASIA.

Euphra. War on ye heroes,
Ye great asserters of a monarch's cause!
Let the wild tempest rise. Melanthon, ha!
Did'st thou not hear the vast tremendous roar?
Down tumbling from it's base the eastern tow'r,
Burst on the tyrant's ranks, and on the plain
Lies an extended ruin.

Melan. Still new horrors
Increase each hour, and gather round our heads.

Euphra. The glorious tumult lifts my tow'ring soul.
Once more, Melanthon, once again, my father
Shall mount Sicilia's throne.

Melan. Alas! that hour
Would come with joy to ev'ry honest heart,
Would shed divinest blessings from its wing;
But no such hour in all the round of time,
I fear, the fates averse will e'er lead on.

Euphra. And still, Melanthon, still does pale despair
Depress thy spirit? Lo! Timoleon comes
Arm'd with the pow'r of Greece; the brave, the just,
God-like Timoleon! ardent to redress,
He guides the war, and gains upon his prey.
A little interval shall set the victor
Within our gates triumphant,

Melan.

Melan. Still my fears

Forbode for thee. Would thou hadst left this place,
When hence your husband, the brave Phocion fled,
Fled with your infant son.

Euphra. In duty fix'd,

Here I remain'd, while my brave gen'rous Phocion
Fled with my child, and from his mother's arms
Bore my sweet little one.—Full well thou know'st
The pangs I suffer'd in that trying moment ;
Did I not weep ? Did I not rave and shriek,
And by the roots tear my dishevell'd hair ?
Did I not follow to the sea-beat shore,
Resolv'd with him and with my blooming boy
To trust the winds and waves ?

Melan. Deem not, Euphrasia,

I e'er can doubt thy constancy and love.

Euphra. Melanthon, how I loved, the Gods who saw

Each secret image that my fancy form'd,
The Gods can witness how I lov'd my Phocion.
And yet I went not with him. Could I do it ?
Could I desert my father ? Could I leave
The venerable man, who gave me being,
A victim here in Syracuse, nor stay
To watch his fate, to visit his affliction,
To cheer his prison hours, and with the tear
Of filial virtue bid ev'n bondage smile ?

Melan. The pious act, whate'er the fates intend,
Shall merit heartfelt praise.

Euphra. Yes, Phocion, go,

Go with my child, torn from this matron breast,
This breast that still should yield it's nurture to him,
Fly with my infant to some happier shore.
If he be safe, Euphrasia dies content.

8 THE GRECIAN DAUGHTER :

Till that sad close of all, the task be mine
To tend a father with delighted care,
To smooth the pillow of declining age,
See him sink gradual into mere decay,
On the last verge of life watch ev'ry look,
Explore each fond unutterable wish,
Catch his last breath, and close his eyes in peace.

Melan. I would not add to thy afflictions ; yet
My heart misgives ;—Evander's fatal period——

Euphra. Still is far off ; the Gods have sent relief,
And once again I shall behold him king.

Melan. Alas ! This dream of hope at length may waken
To deep despair.

Euphra. The spirit-stirring virtue
That glows within me, ne'er shall know despair.
No, I will trust the Gods. Desponding man !
Hast thou not heard with what resistless ardour
Timoleon drives the tumult of the war ?
Hast thou not heard him thund'ring at our gates ?
The tyrant's pent up in his last retreat ;
Anon thou'lt see his battlements in dust,
His walls, his ramparts, and his tow'rs in ruin ;
Destruction pouring in on ev'ry side,
Pride and oppression at their utmost need,
And nought to save him in his hopeless hour.

[*A flourish of trumpets.*]

Melan. Ha ! the fell tyrant comes—Beguile his rage,
And o'er your sorrows cast a dawn of gladness.

Enter DIONYSIUS, CALIPPUS, OFFICERS, &c.

Di. The vain presumptuous Greek ! His hopes of conquest,
Like a gay dream, are vanish'd into air.
Proudly elate, and flush'd with easy triumph

O'er

O'er vulgar warriors, to the gates of Syracuse
He urg'd the war, till Dionysius' arm
Let slaughter loose, and taught his dastard train
To seek their safety by inglorious flight.

Euphra. O Dionysius, if distracting fears
Alarm this throbbing bosom, you will pardon
A frail and tender sex. Should ruthless war
Roam through our streets, and riot here in blood,
Where shall the lost Euphrasia find a shelter?
In vain she'll kneel, and clasp the sacred altar.
O let me then, in mercy let me seek
The gloomy mansion, where my father dwells;
I die content, if in his arms I perish.

Dion. Thou lovely trembler, hush thy fears to rest.
The Greek recoils; like the impetuous surge
That dashes on the rock, there breaks, and foams,
And backward rolls into the sea again.
All shall be well in Syracuse: a fleet
Appears in view, and brings the chosen sons
Of Carthage. From the hill that fronts the harbour,
I saw their canvas swelling with the wind,
While on the purple wave the western sun
Glanc'd the remains of day.

Euphra. Yet till the fury
Of war subside, the wild, the horrid interval
In safety let me soothe to dear delight
In a lov'd father's presence; from his sight,
For three long days, with specious seign'd excuse
Your guards debar'd me. Oh! while yet he lives,
Indulge a daughter's love; worn out with age
Soon must he seal his eyes in endless night,
And with his converse charm my ear no more.

10 THE GRECIAN DAUGHTER:

Dion. Why thus anticipate misfortune? Still
Evander mocks the injuries of time.
Calippus, thou survey the city round;
Station the centinels, that no surprise
Invade the unguarded works, while drowsy night
Weighs down the soldier's eye. Afflicted fair,
Thy couch invites thee. When the tumult's o'er,
Thou'lt see Evander with redoubled joy.
Though now unequal to the cares of empire
His age sequester him, yet honours high
Shall gild the ev'ning of his various day.

Euphra. For this benignity accept my thanks.
They gush in tears, and my heart pours it's tribute.

Dion. Perdiccas, ere the morn's revolving light
Unveil the face of things, do thou dispatch
A well-oar'd galley to Hamilcar's fleet;
At the north point of yonder promontory
Let some selected officer instruct him
To moor his ships, and issue on the land.
Then may Timoleon tremble; vengeance then
Shall overwhelm his camp, pursue his bands
With fatal havoc to the ocean's margin,
And cast their limbs to glut the vulture's famine
In mangled heaps upon the naked shore.

[Exit Dionysius.]

EUPHRASIA, MILANTHON.

Euphra. What do I hear? Melanthon, can it be?
If Carthage comes, if her perfidious sons
Lift in his cause, the dawn of freedom's gone.

Mel. Woe, bit'rest woe impends; thou would'st not think--

Euphra. How!—speak!—unfold——

Melan. My tongue denies it's office.

Euphra. How is my father? Say, Melanthon—

Melan. He,——

Perhaps he dies this moment.—Since Timoleon
First form'd his lines round this beleaguer'd city,
No nutriment has touched Evander's lips.
In the deep caverns of the rock imprison'd
He pines in bitt'rest want.

Euphra. To that abode
Of woe and horror, that last stage of life,
Has the fell tyrant mov'd him?

Melan. There sequester'd,
Alas! he soon must perish.

Euphra. Well, my heart,
Well do your vital drops forget to flow.

Melan. Enough his sword has reek'd with public
slaughter;
Now dark infiduous deeds must thin mankind.

Euphra. Oh! night, that oft hast heard my piercing
shrieks

Disturb thy awful silence; oft has heard
Each stroke these hands in frantic sorrow gave
From this sad breast resounding, now no more
I mean to vent complaints; I mean not now
With busy mem'ry to retrace the wrongs
His hand hath heap'd on our devoted race.
I bear it all; with calmest patience bear it:
Resign'd and wretched, desperate and lost.

Melan. Despair, alas! is all the sad resource
Our fate allows us now.

Euphra. Yet why despair?
Is that the tribute to a father due?

12 THE GRECIAN DAUGHTER:

Blood is his due, Melanthon ; yes, the blood,
The vile, black blood, that fills the tyrant's veins,
Would graceful look upon my dagger's point.
Come, vengeance, come, shake off this feeble sex,
Sinew my arm, and guide it to his heart.
And thou, O filial piety, that rul'st
My woman's breast, turn to vindictive rage ;
Assume the port of justice ; shew mankind
Tyrannic guilt hath never dar'd in Syracuse,
Beyond the reach of virtue.

Melan. Yet beware ;
Controul this frenzy that bears down your reason.
Surrounded by his guards, the tyrant mocks
Your utmost fury ; moderate your zeal,
Nor let him hear these transports of the soul,
These wild upbraidings.

Euphra. Shall Euphrasia's voice
Be hush'd to silence, when a father dies ?
Shall not the monster hear his deeds accurst ?
Shall he not tremble, when a daughter comes,
Wild with her griefs, and terrible with wrongs,
Fierce in despair, all nature in her cause
Alarm'd and rous'd to vengeance ?—Yes, Melanthon,
The man of blood shall hear me ; yes, my voice
Shall mount aloft upon the whirlwind's wing,
Pierce yon blue vault, and bring the thund'rer down.
Melanthon come ; my wrongs will lend me force ;
The weakness of my sex is gone ; this arm
Feels tenfold strength ; this arm shall do a deed
For Heav'n and earth, for men and Gods to wonder at :
This arm shall vindicate a father's cause.

END OF THE FIRST ACT.

A C T II.

*A wild romantic Scene amidst overhanging Rocks ; a Cavern
on one Side.*

ARCAS, with a Spear in his Hand.

THE gloom of night fits heavy on the world ;
And o'er the solemn scene such stillness reigns,
As 'twere a pause of nature ; on the beach
No murmuring billow breaks ; the Grecian tents
Lie sunk in sleep ; no gleaming fires are seen ;
All Syracuse is hush'd ; no stir abroad,
Save ever and anon the dashing oar,
That beats the sullen wave. And hark !—Was that
The groan of anguish from Evander's cell,
Piercing the midnight gloom ?—It is the sound
Of bustling prows, that cleave the briny deep.
Perhaps at this dead hour Hamilcar's fleet
Rides in the bay.

Enter PHILOTAS, from the Cavern.

Philo. What ho !—brave Arcas !—ho !

Arcas. Why thus desert thy couch ?

Philo. Methought the sound
Of distant uproar chas'd affrighted sleep.

Arcas. At intervals the oar's resounding stroke

Comes

14 THE GRECIAN DAUGHTER:

Comes ecchoing from the main. Save that report,
A death-like silence thro' the wide expanse
Broods o'er the dreary coast.

Philo. Do thou retire,
And seek repose ; the duty of thy watch
Is now perform'd ; I take thy post.

Arcas. How fares
Your royal pris'ner ?

Philo. Arcas, shall I own
A secret weakness ? My heart inward melts
To see that suffering virtue. On the earth,
The cold, dank earth, the royal victim lies ;
And while pale famine drinks his vital spirit,
He welcomes death, and smiles himself to rest.
Oh ! would I could relieve him ! Thou withdraw ;
Thy wearied nature claims repose ; and now
The watch is mine.

Arcas. May no alarm disturb thee.

[*Exit.*

PHILOTAS.

Some dread event is lab'ring into birth.
At close of day the fullen sky held forth
Unerring signals.—With disastrous glare
The moon's full orb rose crimson'd o'er with blood ;
And lo ! athwart the gloom a falling star
Trails a long tract of fire !——What daring step
Sounds on the flinty rock ? Stand there ; what ho !
Speak, ere thou dar'st advance.

Enter

Enter EUPHRASIA, with a Lanthorn in her Hand.

Euphra. Thou need'st not fear;
It is a friend approaches.

Philo. Ha! what mean
Those plaintive notes?

Euphra. Here is no ambush'd Greek,
No warrior to surprize thee on the watch.
An humble suppliant comes—Alas! my strength
Exhausted quite forsakes this weary frame.

Philo. What voice thus piercing thro' the gloom of
night——

What art thou? Speak, unfold thy purpose; say,
What wretch, with what intent, at this dead hour—
Wherefore alarm'st thou thus our peaceful watch?

Euphra. Let no mistrust affright thee.—Lo! a wretch,
The veriest wretch that ever groan'd in anguish,
Comes here to grovel on the earth before thee,
To tell her sad, sad tale, implore thy aid,
For sure the pow'r is thine, thou canst relieve
My bleeding heart, and soften all my woes.

Philo. Ha! sure those accents—*(takes the light from her.)*

Euphra. Deign to listen to me.

Philo. Euphrasia!——

Euphra. Yes; the lost, undone Euphrasia;
Supreme in wretchedness; to th' inmost sense,
Here in the quickest fibre of the heart,
Wounded, transfix'd, and totur'd to distraction.

Philo. Why, princess, thus anticipate the dawn?
Still sleep and silence wrap the weary world;

The

16 THE GRECIAN DAUGHTER :

The stars in mid career usurp the pole ;
The Grecian bands, the winds, the waves are hush'd ;
All things are mute around us ; all but you
Rest in oblivious slumber from their cares.

Euphra. Yes, all at peace ; I only wake to misery.

Philo. How didst thou gain the summit of the rock ?

Euphra. Give me my father ; here you hold him fetter'd ;
Oh ! give him to me ;—in the fond pursuit
All pain and peril vanish ; love and duty
Inspir'd the thought ; despair itself gave courage ;
I climb'd the hard ascent ; with painful toil
Surmounted craggy cliffs, and pointed rocks ;
What will not misery attempt ? — If ever
The touch of nature throb'd within your breast,
Admit me to Evander ; in these caves
I know he pines in want ; let me convey
Some charitable succour to a father.

Philo. Alas ! Euphrasia, would I dar'd comply.

Euphra. It will be virtue in thee. Thou, like me,
Wert born in Greece :—Oh ! by our common parent—
Nay stay ; thou shalt not fly : Philotas stay—
You have a father too ;—think were his lot
Hard as Evander's ; if, by felon hands
Chain'd to the earth, with slow consuming pangs
He felt sharp want, and with an asking eye
Implor'd relief, yet cruel men denied it,
Would'st thou not burst thro' adamantine gates,
Thro' walls and rocks, to save him ? Think, Philotas,
Of thy own aged sire, and pity mine.
Think of the agonies a daughter feels,
When thus a parent wants the common food,

The

The bounteous hand of nature meant for all.

Philo. 'Twere best withdraw thee, princess; thy assistance
Evander wants not; it is fruitless all;
Thy tears, thy wild entreaties, are in vain.

Euphra. Ha!—thou hast murder'd him; he is no more;
I understand thee;—butchers, you have shed
The precious drops of life; yet, e'en in death,
Let me behold him; let a daughter close
With duteous hand a father's beamless eyes;
Print her last kisses on his honour'd hand,
And lay him decent in the shroud of death.

Philo. Alas! this frantic grief can nought avail.
Retire, and seek the couch of balmy sleep,
In this dead hour, this season of repose.

Euphra. And dost thou then, inhuman that thou art,
Advise a wretch like me to know repose?
This is my last abode; these caves, these rocks,
Shall ring for ever with Euphrasia's wrongs;
All Sicily shall hear me; yonder deep
Shall echo back an injur'd daughter's cause;
Here will I dwell, and rave, and shriek, and give
These scatter'd locks to all the passing winds;
Call on Evander lost; and, pouring curses,
And cruel gods, and cruel stars invoking,
Stand on the cliff in madness and despair.

Philo. Yet calm this violence; reflect, Euphrasia,
With what severe enforcement Dionysius
Exact's obedience to his dread command.
If here thou'rt found ———

Euphra. Here is Euphrasia's mansion, (*falls on the ground.*)
Her fix'd eternal home;—inhuman savages,
Here stretch me with a father's murder'd corse;

18 THE GRECIAN DAUGHTER:

Then heap your rocks, your mountains on my head ;
It will be kindness in you ; I shall rest
Intomb'd within a parent's arms.

Philo. By Heav'n,
My heart in pity bleeds.

Euphra Talk'st thou of pity ?
Yield to the gen'rous instinct ; grant my pray'r ;
Let my eyes view him, gaze their last upon him,
And shew you have some sense of human woe.

Philo. Her vehemence of grief o'erpow'rs me quite.
My honest heart condemns the barb'rous deed,
And if I dare——

Euphra. And if you dare !——Is that
The voice of manhood ? Honest, if you dare !
'Tis the slave's virtue ! 'tis the utmost limit
Of the base coward's honour.——Not a wretch,
There's not a villain, not a tool of pow'r,
But, silence interest, extinguish fear,
And he will prove benevolent to man.
The gen'rous heart does more ; will dare do all
That honour prompts.—How dost thou dare to murder ?—
Respect the gods, and know no other fear.

Philo. Oh ! thou hast conquer'd.—Yes, Euphrasia, go
Behold thy father——

Euphra. Raise me, raise me up ;
I'll bathe thy hand with tears, thou gen'rous man !

Philo. Yet mark my words ; if aught of nourishment
Thou would'st convey, my partners of the watch
Will ne'er consent——

Euphra. I will observe your orders :
On any terms, oh ! let me, let me see him.

Philo.

Philo. Yon lamp will guide thee thro' the cavern'd way.

Euphra. My heart runs o'er in thanks; the pious act
Timoleon shall reward; the bounteous gods,
And thy own virtue shall reward the deed.

[*Goes into the cave.*]

PHILOTAS.

Prevailing, pow'rful virtue!—Thou subdu'ft
The stubborn heart, and mould'ft it to thy purpose.
Would I could save them!—But tho' not for me
The glorious pow'r to shelter innocence,
Yet for a moment to assuage its woes,
Is the best sympathy, the purest joy
Nature intended for the heart of man,
When thus she gave the social gen'rous tear.

[*Exit.*]

Scene the Inside of the Cavern.

Enter ARCAS and EUPHRASIA.

Arcas. No; on my life I dare not.

Euphra. But a small,
A wretched pittance; one poor cordial drop
To renovate exhausted drooping age.
I ask no more.

Arcas. Not the smallest store
Of scanty nourishment must pass these walls.
Our lives were forfeit else: a moment's parley
Is all I grant; in yonder cave he lies.

Evander (within the cell.) Oh! struggling nature! let
thy conflict end.

Oh! give me, give me rest.

20 THE GRECIAN DAUGHTER:

Euphra. My father's voice!

It pierces here; it cleaves my very heart.

I shall expire, and never see him more.

Arcas. Repose thee, princess, here, (*draws a couch.*)
here rest thy limbs,

Till the returning blood shall lend thee firmness.

Euphra. The caves, the rocks, re-echo to his groans,
And is there no relief?

Arcas. All I can grant

You shall command.—I will unbar the dungeon,

Unloose the chain that binds him to the rock,

And leave your interview without restraint.

(*Opens a cell in the back scene.*)

Euphra. Hold, hold my heart! Oh! how shall I sustain
The agonizing scene? (*rises.*) I must behold him;
Nature, that drives me on, will lend me force.
s that his mansion?

Arcas. Take your last farewell.

His vigour seems not yet exhausted quite.

You must be brief, or ruin will ensue.

[*Exit.*]

Evan. (*raising himself.*) Oh! when shall I get free?—

These ling'ring pangs——

Euphra. Behold, ye pow'rs, that spectacle of woe!

Evan. Dispatch me, pitying gods, and save my child!

I burn, I burn; alas! no place of rest: [*Rises and comes out.*]

A little air; once more a breath of air;

Alas! I faint; I die.

Euphra. Heart-piercing sight!

Let me support you, Sir.

Evan. Oh! lend your arm.——

Whoe'er thou art, I thank thee—— That kind breeze

Comes

Comes gently o'er my senses——Lead me forward——
And is there left one charitable hand
To reach it's succour to a wretch like me?

Euphra. Well may'st thou ask it. Oh! my breaking heart!
The hand of death is on him.

Evan. Still a little,
A little onward to the air conduct me;
'Tis well;—I thank thee; thou art kind and good,
And much I wonder at this gen'rous pity.

Euphra. Do you not know me, Sir?

Evan. Methinks I know
That voice——art thou——alas! my eyes are dim!
Each object swims before me——No, in truth
I do not know thee.——

Euphra. Not your own Euphrasia?

Evan. Art thou my daughter?

Euphra. Oh! my honour'd Sire!

Evan. My daughter, my Euphrasia! come to close
A father's eyes!——Giv'n to my last embrace!
Gods! do I hold her once again?——Your mercies
Are without number——(*falls on the couch.*)

This excess of bliss
O'erpow'rs—it kills—Euphrasia—could I hope it?
I die content——Art thou indeed my daughter?
Thou art—my hand is moisten'd with thy tears——
I pray you do not weep—thou art my child—
I thank you gods!—in my last dying moments
You have not left me—I would pour my praise——
You read my heart—you see what passes there.

Euphra. Alas he faints; the gushing tide of transport
Bears down each feeble sense——Restore him Heaven!

Evan.

22 THE GRECIAN DAUGHTER:

Evan. All, my Euphrasia, all will soon be well.
 Pass but a moment, and this busy globe,
 Its thrones, its empires, and its bustling millions,
 Will seem a speck in the great void of space.
 Yet while I stay, thou darling of my age——
 Nay dry those tears——

Euphra. I will my father.

Evan. Where,
 I fear to ask it, where is virtuous Phocion?

Euphra. Fled from the tyrant's pow'r.

Evan. And left thee here
 Expos'd and helpless?

Euphra. He is all truth and honour:
 He fled to save my child,

Evan. My young Evander!
 Your boy is safe Euphrasia?—Oh! my heart——
 Alas! quite gone; worn out with misery;
 Oh! weak, decay'd old man!

Euphra. Inhuman wretches!
 Will none relieve his want?——A drop of water
 Might save his life; and ev'n that's deny'd him.

Evan. These strong emotions—Oh! that eager air—
 It is too much——Assist me; bear me hence;
 And lay me down in peace.

Euphra. His eyes are fix'd!
 And those pale quiv'ring lips!—He clasps my hand——
 What, no assistance!—Monsters will you thus
 Let him expire in these weak feeble arms?

Enter

Enter PHILOTAS.

Philo. Those wild, those piercing shrieks will give th' alarm.

Euphra. Support him; bear him hence; 'tis all I ask.

Evan. (*As he is carried off.*) O Death! where art thou?
—Death, thou dread of guilt,

Thou wish of innocence, affliction's friend,

Tir'd nature calls thee—Come, in mercy come,

And lay me pillow'd in eternal rest.

My child—where art thou? Give me—reach thy hand—

Why dost thou weep?—My eyes are dry—Alas!

Quite parch'd—my lips—quite parch'd—they cling—together.

Euphra. Now judge, ye Pow'rs, in the whole round of time,

If e'er you view'd a scene of woe like this. [*Exeunt.*

Enter ARCAS.

Arcas. The grey of morn breaks thro' yon eastern clouds.

'Twere time this interview should end; the hour

Now warns Euphrasia hence; what man could dare,

I have indulg'd—Philotas!—ha! the cell

Left void!—Evander gone!—What may this mean;

Philotas, speak.

Enter PHILOTAS.

Philo. Oh! vile, detested lot

Here to obey the savage tyrant's will,

And

24 THE GRECIAN DAUGHTER:

And murder virtue, that can thus behold
It's executioner, and smile upon him.
That piteous sight!

Arcas. She must withdraw Philotas;
Delay undoes us both. The restless main
Glow with the blush of day. Timoleon's fleet,
That pass'd the night in busy preparation,
Makes from the shore. On the high craggy point
Of yonder jutting eminence I mark'd
Their haughty streamers curling to the wind.
He seeks Hamilcar's fleet. The briny deep
Shall soon be dyed with blood. The fierce alarm
Will rouse our slumb'ring troops. The time requires
Without or further pause, or vain excuse,
That she depart this moment.

Philo. Arcas; yes;
My voice shall warn her of th' approaching danger. [*Exit.*]

Arcas. Would she had ne'er adventur'd to our guard.
I dread th' event; and hark!—the wind conveys
In clearer sound the uproar of the main,
The fates prepare new havock; on th' event
Depends the fate of empire. Wherefore thus
Delays Euphrasia?—Ha! what means, Philotas,
That sudden haste, that pale disorder'd look?

Enter PHILOTAS.

Philo. O! I can hold no more; at such a sight
Ev'n the hard heart of tyranny would melt
To infant softness. Arcas, go, behold
The pious fraud of charity and love;
Behold that unexampled goodness; see

Th' expedient sharp necessity has taught her ;
Thy heart will burn, will melt, will yearn to view,
A child like her.

Arcas. Ha !—Say what mystery
Wakes these emotions ?

Philo. Wonder-working virtue !
The father foster'd at his daughter's breast !——
O ! filial piety !—The milk design'd
For her own offspring, on the parent's lip
Allays the parching fever.

Arcas. That device
Has she then form'd, eluding all our care,
To minister relief ?

Philo. On the bare earth
Evander lies ; and as his languid pow'rs
Imbibe with eager thirst the kind refreshment,
And his looks speak unutterable thanks,
Euphrasia views him with the tend'rest glance,
Ev'n as a mother doating on her child,
And, ever and anon, amidst the smiles
Of pure delight, of exquisite sensation,
A silent tear steals down ; the tear of virtue,
That sweetens grief to rapture. All her laws
Inverted quite, great Nature triumphs still.

Arcas. The tale unmans my soul.

Philo. Ye tyrants hear it,
And learn, that, while your cruelty prepares
Unheard of torture, virtue can keep pace
With your worst efforts, and can try new modes
To bid men grow enamour'd of her charms.

Arcas. Philotas, for Euphrasia, in her cause
I now can hazard all. Let us preserve
Her father for her.

26 THE GRECIAN DAUGHTER :

Philo. Oh ! her lovely daring
Transcends all praise. By Heav'n, he shall not die.

Arcas. And yet we must be wary ; I'll go forth,
And first explore each avenue around,
Lest the fix'd sentinel obstruct your purpose. [Exit.

Philo. I thank thee, Arcas ; we will act like men
Who feel another's woes—She leads him forth,
And tremblingly supports his drooping age.
[Goes to assist him,

Enter EUPHRASIA and EVANDER.

Evan. Euphrasia, oh ! my child ! returning life
Glows here about my heart. Conduct me forward—
At the last gasp preserv'd ! Ha ! dawning light !
Let me behold ; in faith I see thee now ;
I do indeed : the father sees his child.

Euphra. I have reliev'd him—Oh ! the joy's too great ;
'Tis speechless rapture !

Evan. Blessings, blessings on thee !

Euphra. My father still shall live. Alas ! Philotas,
Could I abandon that white hoary head,
That venerable form ?——Abandon him
To perish here in misery and famine ?

Philo. Thy tears, thou miracle of goodness !
Have triumph'd o'er me ; these round gushing drops
Attest your conquest. Take him, take your father ;
Convey him hence ; I do release him to you.

Evan. What said Philotas !——Do I fondly dream ?
Indeed my senses are imperfect ; yet
Methought I heard him ! Did he say release me ?

Philo. Thou art my king, and now no more my pris'ner ;
Go with your daughter, with that wond'rous pattern

Of

Of filial piety to after times.

Yes, princess, lead him forth ; I'll point the path,
Whose soft declivity will guide your steps

To the deep vale, which these o'erhanging rocks
Encompass round. You may convey him thence

To some safe shelter. Yet a moment's pause ;

I must conceal your flight from ev'ry eye.

Yes, I will save 'em—Oh ! returning virtue !

How big with joy one moment in thy service !

That wretched pair ! I'll perish in their cause. [Exit.

EUPHRASIA, EVANDER,

Evan. Whither, oh ! whither shall Evander go ?

I'm at the goal of life ; if in the race

Honour has follow'd with no ling'ring step,

But there sits smiling with her laurel'd wreath,

To crown my brow, there would I fain make halt,

And not inglorious lay me down to rest.

Euphra. And will you then refuse, when thus the Gods
Afford a refuge to thee ?

Evan. Oh ! my child,

There is no refuge for me.

Euphra. Pardon, Sir :

Euphrasia's care has form'd a safe retreat ;

There may'st thou dwell ; it will not long be wanted ;

Soon shall Timoleon, with resistless force,

Burst yon devoted walls.

Evan. Timoleon !

Euphra. Yes,

The brave Timoleon, with the pow'r of Greece ;

Another day shall make the city his.

Evan.

28 THE GRECIAN DAUGHTER:

Evan. Timoleon come to vindicate my rights !
 Oh ! thou shalt reign in Sicily ! — My child
 Shall grace her father's throne. Indulgent Heav'n !
 Pour down your blessings on this best of daughters ;
 To her and Phocion give Evander's crown ;
 Let them, oh ! let them both in virtue wear it,
 And in due time transmit it to their boy !

Enter PHILOTAS

Philo. All things are apt ; — the drowsy sentinel
 Lies hush'd in sleep ; I'll marshal thee the way
 Down the steep rock.

Euphra. Oh ! Let us quickly hence.

Evan. The blood but loiters in these frozen veins.
 Do you, whose youthful spirit glows with life,
 Do you go forth, and leave this mould'ring corpse.
 To me had Heav'n decree'd a longer date,
 It ne'er had suffer'd a fell monster's reign,
 Nor let me see the carnage of my people.
 Farewel, Euphrasia ; in one lov'd embrace
 To these remains pay the last obsequies,
 And leave me here to sink to silent dust.

Euphra. And will you then, on self-destruction bent,
 Reject my pray'r, nor trust your fate with me ?

Evan. Trust thee ! Euphrasia ? Trust in thee my child ?
 Tho' life's a burden I could well lay down,
 Yet I will prize it, since bestow'd by thee.
 Oh ! thou art good ; thy virtue soars a flight
 For the wide world to wonder at ; in thee,
 Hear it all nature, future ages hear it,
 The father finds a parent in his child.

END OF THE SECOND ACT.

A C T III.

Scene a Rampart near the Harbour.

Enter MELANTHON and PHILOTAS.

Melan. **A**ND lives he still?

Philo. He does; and kindly aliment
Renews the springs of life.

Melan. And doth he know
The glorious work the destinies prepare?

Philo. He is inform'd of all.

Melan. That Greek Timoleon
Comes his deliverer, and the fell usurper
Pants in the last extreme?

Philo. The glorious tidings
Have reach'd his ear.

Melan. Lead on, propitious Pow'r,
Your great design; second the Grecian arms,
And whelm the sons of Carthage in the deep.

Philo. This hour decides their doom; and, lo! Euphrasia
Stands on the jutting rock, that rock, where oft
Whole days she sat in pensive sorrow fix'd,
And swell'd with streaming tears the restless deep.
There, now with other sentiments elate,
She views Timoleon with victorious prow
Glide thro' the waves, and sees the scatter'd navy
Of Carthage fly before him.

Melan.

30 THE GRECIAN DAUGHTER:

Melan. Blest event !

Evander, if thou mock'st me not, shall live
Once more to see the justice of the Gods.
But wilt thou still protect my royal master ?
Wilt thou admit me to his wish'd-for presence ?

Philo. Let it suffice that no assassin's aim
Can now assault him—I must hence, Melanthon ;
I now must mingle with the tyrant's train,
And, with a semblance of obsequious duty,
Delude suspicion's eye—My friend, farewell. [Exit.

MELANTHON.

If he deceive me not with specious hopes,
I shall behold the sov'reign, in whose service
These temples felt the iron casque of war,
And these white hairs have silver'd o'er my head.

Enter EUPHRASIA.

Euphra. See there ; behold 'em ; lo ! the fierce encounter ;
He rushes on ; the ocean flames around
With the bright flash of arms ; the echoing hills
Rebellow to the roar.

Melan. The Gods are with us,
And victory is ours.

Euphra. High on the stern
The Grecian leaders stand ; they stem the surge ;
Launch'd from their arm the missive lightnings fly,
And the Barbaric fleet is wrapt in fire.
And lo ! yon bark, down in the roaring gulph ;
And there, more, more are perishing—Behold !
They plunge for ever lost.

Melan. So perish all,

Who

Who from yon continent unfurl their sails,
To shake the freedom of this sea-girt isle !

Euphra. Did I not say, Melanthon, did I not
Presage the glories of Timoleon's triumph !
Where now are Afric's sons ? The vanquish'd tyrant
Shall look aghast ; his heart shall shrink appall'd,
And dread his malefactions ! Worse than famine,
Despair shall fasten on him !—

Enter DIONYSIUS, CALIPPUS, &c.

Dion. Base deserters !
Curse on their Punic faith ! Did they once dare
To grapple with the Greek ? Ere yet the main
Was ting'd with blood, they turn'd their ships averse.
May storms and tempests follow in their rear,
And dash their fleet upon the Lybian shore !

Enter CALIPPUS.

Calip. My liege, Timoleon where the harbour opens
Has storm'd the forts, and ev'n now his fleet
Pursues its course, and steers athwart the bay.

Dion. Ruin impends ; and yet, if fall it must,
I bear a mind to meet it, undismay'd,
Unconquer'd ev'n by Fate.

Calip. Through ev'ry street
Despair and terror fly. A panic spreads
From man to man, and superstition sees
Jove arm'd with thunder, and the Gods against us.

Dion. With sacred rites their wrath must be appeas'd.
Let instant victims at the altar bleed ;
Let incense roll its fragrant clouds to Heav'n,

And

32 THE GRECIAN DAUGHTER:

And pious matrons, and the virgin train,
In slow procession to the temple bear
The image of their Gods.

Euphra. Ha!—Does the tyrant
Dare with unhallow'd step, with crimes and guilt,
Approach the sacred fane?—Alas! my father,
Where now thy sanctuary?—What place shall hide
Thy persecuted virtue? (*Aside.*)

Dion. Thou, Euphrasia,
Lead forth the pious band.—This very moment
Issue our orders.

Euphra. With consenting heart
Euphrasia goes to waft her pray'rs to Heav'n. [*Exit.*

Dion. The solemn sacrifice, the virgin throng,
Will gain the popular belief, and kindle
In the fierce soldiery religious rage.
Away, my friends, prepare the solemn pomp.

[*Exit CALIPPUS, &c.*

Philotas, thou draw near: how fares your prisoner?
Has he yet breath'd his last?

Philo. Life ebbs apace;
Tomorrow's sun sees him a breathless corse.

Dion. Curse on his ling'ring pangs! Sicilia's crown
No more shall deck his brow; and if the sand
Still loiter in the glass, thy hand, my friend,
May shake it thence.

Philo. It shall, dread Sir; that task
Leave to thy faithful servant.

Dion. Oh! Philotas,
Thou little know'st the cares, the pangs of empire.
The ermin'd pride, the purple that adorns

A con-

A conqueror's breast, but serves, my friend, to hide
A heart that's torn, that's mangled with remorse.
Each object round me wakens horrid doubts ;
The flatt'ring train, the sentinel that guards me,
The slave that waits, all give some new alarm,
And from the means of safety dangers rise.
Ev'n victory itself plants anguish here,
And round my laurels the fell serpent twines.

Philo. Would Dionysius abdicate his crown,
And sue for terms of peace ?

Dion. Detested thought !
No, though ambition teems with countless ills,
It still has charms of pow'r to fire the soul.
Tho' horrors multiply around my head,
I will oppose them all. The pomp of sacrifice
But now ordain'd, is mockery to Heav'n.
'Tis vain, 'tis fruitless ; then let daring guilt
Be my inspirer, and consummate all.
Where are those Greeks, the captives of my sword,
Whose desp'rate valour rush'd within our walls,
Fought near our person, and the pointed lance
Aim'd at my breast ?

Philo. In chains they wait their doom.

Dion. Give me to see 'em ; bring the slaves before me.

Philo. What, ho ! Melanthon, this way lead your prisoners.

Enter MELANTHON with Greek Officers and Soldiers.

Dion. Assassins and not warriors ! do ye come,
When the wide range of battle claims your sword,
Thus do you come against a single life
To wage the war ? Did not our buckler ring
With all your darts in one collected volley

34 THE GRECIAN DAUGHTER;

Show'd on my head? Did not your swords at once
Point at my breast, and thirst for regal blood?

Greek Of. We fought thy life. I am by birth a Greek,
An open foe in arms I meant to slay
The foe of human kind.—With rival ardour
We took the field; one voice, one mind, one heart;
All leagu'd, all covenanted: in yon camp
Spirits there are who aim, like us, at glory.
Whene'er you sally forth, whene'er the Greeks
Shall scale your walls, prepare thee to encounter
A like assault. By me the youth of Greece
Thus notify the war they mean to wage.

Dion. Thus then I warn them of my great revenge,
Whoe'er in battle shall become our prisoner,
In torment meets his doom.

Greek Of. Then wilt thou see,
How vile the body to a mind that pants
For genuine glory. Twice three hundred Greeks
Have sworn, like us, to hunt thee thro' the ranks;
Ours the first lot; we've fail'd; on yonder plain
Appear in arms, the faithful band will meet thee.

Dion. Vile slave, no more. Melanthon drag 'em hence
To die in misery. Impal'd alive
The winds shall parch them on the craggy cliff.
Selected from the rest let one depart
A messenger to Greece, to tell the fate
Her chosen sons, her first adventurers, met. [Exit.]

Melan. Unhappy men! how shall my care protect
Your forfeit lives?—Philotas, thou conduct them
To the deep dungeon's gloom. In that recess,
Midst the wild tumult of eventful war,

We

We may ward off the blow! My friends, farewell;
That officer will guide your steps.

[*All follow PHILOTAS, except PHOCION.*]

Pho. Disguis'd
Thus in a soldier's garb he knows me not.
Melanthon!——

Melan. Ha!—Those accents!—Phocion here?

Pho. Yes, Phocion here! Speak, quickly tell me, say
How fares Euphrasia?

Melan. Ha! beware;——Philotas,
Conduct these pris'ners hence; this soldier here
Shall bear the tidings to Timoleon's camp.

Pho. Oh! satisfy my doubts; how fares Euphrasia?

Melan. Euphrasia lives, and fills the anxious moments
With ev'ry virtue.—Wherefore venture hither?
Why with rash valour penetrate our gates?

Pho. Could I refrain? Oh! could I tamely wait
Th' event of ling'ring war? With patience count
The lazy-pacing hours, while here in Syracuse
The tyrant keeps all that my heart holds dear?
For her dear sake, all danger sinks before me;
For her I burst the barriers of the gate,
Where the deep cavern'd rock affords a passage.
A hundred chosen Greeks pursu'd my steps,
We forc'd an entrance; the devoted guard
Fell victims to our rage; but in that moment
Down from the walls superior numbers came.
The tyrant led them on. We rush'd upon him;
If we could reach his heart, to end the war.
But Heav'n thought otherwise. *Melanthon*, say;
I fear to ask it, lives Evander still?

Melan. Alas, he lives imprison'd in the rock.

36 THE GRECIAN DAUGHTER:

Thou must withdraw thee hence ; regain once more
Timoleon's camp ; alarm his slumb'ring rage :
Assail the walls : thou with thy phalanx seek
The subterraneous path ; that way at night
The Greeks may enter, and let in destruction
To the great work of vengeance.

Pho. Would'st thou have me
Basely retreat, while my Euphrasia trembles
Here on the ridge of peril ? She perhaps
May fall unknown, unpity'd, undistinguish'd
Amidst the gen'ral carnage. Shall I leave her
To add that beauty to the purple heap ?
No ; I will seek her in these walls accurst,
Ev'n in the tyrant's palace ; save that life,
My only source of joy, that life, whose loss
Would make all Greece complotter in a murder,
And damn a righteous cause.

Melan. Yet hear the voice
Of sober age. Should Dionysius' spies
Detect thee here, ruin involves us all ;
'Twere best retire, and seek Timoleon's tents ;
Tell him, dismay and terror fill the city ;
Ev'n now in Syracuse the tyrant's will
Ordains with pomp oblations to the Gods.
His deadly hand still hot with recent blood,
The monster dares approach the sacred altar ;
Thy voice may rouse Timoleon to th' assault,
And bid him storm the works.

Pho. By Heav'n I will ;
My breath shall wake his rage ; this very night,
When sleep sits heavy on the slumb'ring city,
Then Greece unsheaths her sword, and great revenge

Shall

Shall stalk with death and horror o'er the ranks
Of slaughter'd troops, a sacrifice to freedom !
But first let me behold Euphrasia.

Melan. Hush

Thy pent-up valour ; to a secret haunt
I'll guide thy steps ; there dwell, and in apt time
I'll bring Euphrasia to thy longing arms.

Pho. Wilt thou ?

Melan. By Heav'n I will ; another act
Of desperate fury might endanger all.
The tyrant's busy guards are posted round ;
In silence follow ; thou shalt see Euphrasia.

Pho. Oh ! lead me to her ; that exalted virtue
With firmer nerve shall bid me grasp the javelin,
Shall bid my sword with more than lightning's swiftness
Blaze in the front of war, and glut its rage
With blow repeated in the tyrant's veins. [Exeunt.

Scene a Temple, with a Monument in the Middle.

Enter EUPHRASIA, ERIXENE, and other Female Attendants.

Euphra. This way, my virgins, this way bend your steps.
Lo ! the sad sepulchre where, hears'd in death,
The pale remains of my dear mother lie.
There, while the victims at yon altar bleed,
And with your pray'rs the vaulted roof resounds,
There let me pay the tribute of a tear,
A weeping pilgrim o'er Eudocia's ashes.

Erix. Forbear, Euphrasia, to renew your sorrows.

Euphra. My tears have dried their source ; then let me here

Pay

38 THE GRECIAN DAUGHTER:

Pay this sad visit to the honour'd clay
That moulders in the tomb. These sacred viands
I'll burn an off'ring to a parent's shade,
And sprinkle with this wine the hallow'd mould.
That puty paid, I will return, my virgins.

[*She goes into the tomb.*]

Erix. Look down, propitious Pow'rs ! behold that virtue;
And heal the pangs that desolate her soul.

Enter PHILOTAS.

Philo. Mourn, mourn, ye virgins ; rend your scatter'd
garments ;
Some dread calamity hangs o'er our heads.
In vain the tyrant would appease with sacrifice
Th' impending wrath of ill-requited Heav'n.
Ill omens hover o'er us : at the altar
The victim dropt, e'er the divining seer
Had gor'd his knife. The brazen statues trembled ;
And from the marble, drops of blood distil'd.

Erix. Now, ye just Gods, if vengeance you prepare,
Now find the guilty head.

Philo. Amidst the throng
A matron labours with th' inspiring God ;
She stares, she raves, and with no mortal sound
Proclaims aloud, " Where Phœbus am I borne ?
" I see their glitt'ring spears ; I see them charge ;
" Bellona wades in blood ; that mangled body,
" Deform'd with wounds and welt'ring in its gore,
" I know it well ; Oh ! close the dreadful scene ;
" Relieve me Phœbus, I have seen too much."

Erix. Alas ! I tremble for Evander's fate ;
Avert the omen, Gods, and guard his life.

Enter

Enter EUPHRASIA from the Tomb.

Euphra. Virgins, I thank you—Oh ! more lightly now
My heart expands ; the pious act is done,
And I have paid my tribute to a parent.
Ah ! wherefore does the tyrant bend this way ?

Philo. He flies the altar ; leaves th' unfinish'd rites.
No God there smiles propitious on his cause,
Fate lifts the awful balance ; weighs his life,
The lives of numbers, in the trembling scale.

Euphra. Despair and horror mark his haggard looks,
His wild, disorder'd step—He rushes forth ;
Some new alarm demands him !—Ev'n now
He issues at yon portal !—Lo ! see there,
The suppliant crowd disperses ; wild with fear,
Distraction in each look, the wretched throng
Pours thro' the brazen gates !—Do you retire,
Retire Philotas ; let me here remain,
And give the moments of suspended fate
To pious worship and to filial love.

Philo. Alas ! I fear to yield :—awhile I'll leave thee,
And at the temple's entrance wait thy coming. [*Exit.*

Euphra. Now then, Euphrasia, now thou may'st indulge
The purest ecstasy of soul. Come forth,
Thou man of woe, thou man of ev'ry virtue.

Enter EVANDER, from the Monument.

Evan. And does the grave thus cast me up again
With a fond father's love to view thee ? Thus
To mingle rapture in a daughter's arms ?

Euphra. How fares my father now ?

Evan.

40 THE GRECIAN DAUGHTER:

Evan. Thy aid, Euphrasia,
Has giv'n new life. Thou from this vital stream
Deriv'st thy being; with unheard-of duty
Thou hast repaid it to thy native source.

Euphra. Sprung from Evander, if a little portion
Of all his goodness dwell within my heart,
Thou wilt not wonder.

Evan. Joy and wonder rise
In mix'd emotions!—Though departing hence,
After the storms of a tempestuous life,
Tho' I was entering the wish'd-for port,
Where all is peace, all bliss, and endless joy,
Yet here contented I can linger still
To view thy goodness, and applaud thy deeds,
Thou author of my life!—Did ever parent
Thus call his child before?—My heart's too full,
My old fond heart runs o'er; it akes with joy.

Euphra. Alas, too much you over-rate your daughter;
Nature and duty call'd me—Oh! my father,
How didst thou bear thy long, long suff'rings? How
Endure their barb'rous rage?

Evan. My foes but did
To this old frame, what Nature's hand must do.
In the worst hour of pain, a voice still whisper'd me
“Rouze thee, Evander; self-acquitting conscience
“Declares thee blameless, and the gods behold thee.”
I was but going hence by mere decay
To that futurity which Plato taught,
Where the immortal spirit views the planets
Roll round the mighty year, and wrapt in bliss
Adores th' ideas of th' eternal mind.
Thither, oh! thither was Evander going,
But thou recall'st me; thou!—

Euphra. Timoleon too
Invites thee back to life.

Evan. And does he still
Urge on the siege?

Euphra. His active genius comes
To scourge a guilty race. The Punic fleet
Half lost is swallow'd by the roaring sea.
The shatter'd refuse seek the Lybian shore,
To bear the news of their defeat to Carthage.

Evan. These are thy wonders Heaven!—Abroad thy
spirit
Moves o'er the deep, and mighty fleets are vanish'd.

Euphra. Ha!—hark!—what noise is that! It comes
this way.
Some busy footstep beats the hallow'd pavement.
Oh! Sir, retire—Ye Pow'rs!—Philotas!—ha!

Enter PHILOTAS.

Philo. For thee, Euphrasia, Dionysius calls.
Some new suspicion goads him. At yon gate
I stopt Calippus, as with eager haste
He bent this way to seek thee.—Oh! my sovereign,
My king, my injur'd master, will you pardon
The wrongs I've done thee? *(kneels to Evander.)*

Evan. Virtue such as thine,
From the fierce trial of tyrannic pow'r,
Shines forth with added lustre.

Philo. Oh! forgive
My ardent zeal—there is no time to waste.
You must withdraw—Trust to your faithful friends.

42 THE GRECIAN DAUGHTER:

Pass but another day, and Dionysius
Falls from a throne usurp'd.

Evan. But ere he pays
The forfeit of his crimes, what streams of blood
Shall flow in torrents round ! Methinks I might
Prevent this waste of nature—I'll go forth,
And to my people shew their rightful king.

Euphra. Banish that thought ; forbear ; the rash attempt
Were fatal to our hopes ; oppress'd, dismay'd,
The people look aghast, and wan with fear
None will espouse your cause.

Evan. Yes all will dare
To act like men ;—their king, I gave myself
To a whole people. I made no reserve ;
My life was their's ; each drop about my heart
Pledg'd to the public cause ; devoted to it ;
That was my compact ; is the subject's less ?
If they are all debas'd, and willing slaves,
The young but breathing to grow grey in bondage,
And the old sinking to ignoble graves,
Of such a race no matter who is king.
And yet I will not think it ; no ! my people
Are brave and gen'rous ; I will trust their valour. [*going.*]

Euphra. Yet stay ; yet be advis'd.

Philo. As yet, my liege,
No plan is fix'd, and no concerted measure.
The fates are busy : wait the vast event.
Trust to my truth and honour. Witness, Gods,
Here in the temple of Olympian Jove
Philotas swears——

Evan.

Evan. Forbear : the man like thee,
Who feels the best emotions of the heart,
Truth, reason, justice, honour's fine excitements,
Acts by those laws, and wants no other sanction.

Euphra. Again, th' alarm approaches ; sure destruction
To thee, to all will follow :—hark ! a sound
Comes hollow murmuring thro' the vaulted isle,
It gains upon the ear.—Withdraw, my father ;
All's lost if thou art seen.

Philo. And lo ! Calippus
Darts with the light'ning's speed across the isle.

Evan. Thou at the Senate-house convene my friends ;
Melanthon, Dion, and their brave associates,
Will shew that liberty has leaders still.
Anon I'll meet 'em there : my child farewell ;
Thou shalt direct me now.

Euphra. Too cruel fate !
The tomb is all the mansion I can give ;
My mother's tomb !

Philo. You must be brief ; th' alarm
Each moment nearer comes. In ev'ry sound
Destruction threatens. Ha ! by Heaven this way
Calippus comes—Let me retard his speed. [Exit.

EUPHRASIA coming forward.

How my distracted heart throbs wild with fear ?
What brings Calippus ? Wherefore ? Save me Heaven !

Enter CALIPPUS.

Calip. This lonely musing in these drear abodes
Alarms suspicion : the king knows thy plottings,
Thy rooted hatred to the state and him.

44 THE GRECIAN DAUGHTER;

His sov'reign will commands thee to repair
This moment to his presence.

Euphra. Ha! what means
The tyrant?—I obey (*Exit Calippus.*) and, oh! ye Pow'rs
Ye ministers of Heaven, defend my father;
Support his drooping age; and when anon
Avenging Justice shakes her crimson steel,
Oh! be the grave at least a place of rest;
That from his covert in the hour of peace
Forth he may come to bless a willing people,
And be your own just image here on earth.

END OF THE THIRD ACT.

A C T

A C T IV.

Enter MELANTHON and PHILOTAS.

Melan. **A**WAY; no more; pernicious, vile dissembler!

Philo. Wherefore this frantic rage?

Melan. Thou can'st not varnish
With thy perfidious arts a crime like this.
I climb'd the rugged cliff; but, oh! thou traitor,
Where is Evander? Thro' each dungeon's gloom
I sought the good old king—the guilt is thine;
May vengeance wait thee for it.

Philo. Still, Melanthon,
Let prudence guide thee.

Melan. Thou hast plung'd thee down
Far as the lowest depth of hell-born crimes;
Thou hast out-gone all registers of guilt;
Beyond all fable hast thou sinn'd, Philotas.

Philo. By Heav'n thou wrong'st me.
Did'st thou know, old man——

Melan. Could not his rev'rend age, could not his virtue,
His woes unnumber'd, soften thee to pity?
Thou hast destroy'd my king.

Philo. Yet wilt thou hear me?
Your king still lives.

Melan. Thou, vile deceiver!—Lives!
But where?—Away; no more. I charge thee, leave me.

Philo. We have remov'd him to a place of safety.

Melan.

46 THE GRECIAN DAUGHTER:

Melan. Remov'd!—Thou traitor! what dark privacy—
Why move him thence? The dark assassin's stab
Has clos'd his days—calm unrelenting villain!
I know it all.

Philo. By ev'ry Pow'r above
Evander lives; in safety lives. Last night
When in his dark embrace sleep wrapt the world,
Euphrasia came, a spectacle of woe;
Dar'd to approach our guard, and with her tears,
With vehemence of grief, she touch'd my heart.
I gave her father to her.

Melan. How, Philotas!
If thou do'st not deceive me——

Philo. No, by Heav'n!
By ev'ry Pow'r above—But hark! those notes
Speak Dionysius near—Anon, my friend,
I'll tell thee each particular; —thy king
Mean while is safe—but lo! the tyrant comes;
With guilt like his I must equivocate,
And teach ev'n truth and honour to dissemble.

Enter DIONYSIUS, CALIPPUS, &c.

Dion. Away each vain alarm; the sun goes down,
Nor yet Timoleon issues from his fleet.
There let him linger on the wave-worn beach;
Here the vain Greek shall find another Troy,
A more than Hector here. Tho' Carthage fly,
Ourself—still Dionysius here remains.
And means the Greek to treat of terms-of peace?
By Heav'n, this panting bosom hop'd to meet
His boasted phalanx on the embattled plain.
And doth he now, on peaceful councils bent,
Dispatch his herald?—Let the slave approach.

Enter

Enter the HERALD.

Dion. Now speak thy purpose; what doth Greece impart?

Herald. Timoleon, Sir, whose great renown in arms
Is equall'd only by the softer virtues
Of mild humanity that sway his heart,
Sends me his deligate to offer terms,
On which ev'n foes may well accord; on which
The fiercest nature, tho' it spurn at justice,
May sympathize with his.

Dion. Unfold thy mystery;
Thou shalt be heard.

Herald. The gen'rous leader sees,
With pity sees, the wild destructive havoc
Of ruthless war; he hath survey'd around
The heaps of slain that cover yonder field,
And, touch'd with gen'rous sense of human woe,
Weeps o'er his victories.

Dion. Your leader weeps!
Then let the author of those ills thou speak'st of,
Let the ambitious factor of destruction,
Timely retreat, and close the scene of blood.
Why doth affrighted peace behold his standard
Uprear'd in Sicily? and wherefore here
The iron ranks of war, from which the shepherd
Retires appall'd, and leaves the blasted hopes
Of half the year, while closer to her breast
The mother clasps her infant?

Herald. 'Tis not mine
To plead Timoleon's cause; not mine the office
To justify the strong, the righteous motives
That urge him to the war: the only scope

My

48 THE GRECIAN DAUGHTER.

My deputation aims at, is to fix
An interval of peace, a pause of horror,
That they, whose bodies on the naked shore
Lie wett'ring in their blood, from either host
May meet the last sad rites to nature due,
And decent lie in honourable graves.

Dion. Go tell your leader, his pretexts are vain
Let him, with those that live, embark for Greece;
And leave our peaceful plains; the mangled limbs
Of those he murder'd, from my tender care
Shall meet due obsequies.

Herald. The hero, Sir,
Wages no war with those, who bravely die.
'Tis for the dead I supplicate; for them
We sue for peace; and to the living too
Timoleon would extend it, but the groans
Of a whole people have unsheath'd his sword.
A single day will pay the funeral rites.
To-morrow's sun may see both armies meet
Without hostility, and all in honour;
You to inter the troops, who bravely fell;
We, on our part, to give an humble sod
To those, who gain'd a footing on the isle;
And by their death have conquer'd.

Dion. Be it so;
I grant thy suit: soon as to-morrow's dawn
Illumes the world, the rage of wasting war
In vain shall thirst for blood: but mark my words;
If the next orient sun behold you here,
That hour shall see me terrible in arms
Deluge yon plain, and let destruction loose.
Thou know'st my last resolve, and now farewell.
Some careful officer conduct him forth. [Exit Herald.

By

By Heav'n, the Greek hath offered to my sword
An easy prey ; a sacrifice to glut
My great revenge. Calippus let each soldier
This night resign his wearied limbs to rest,
That ere the dawn, with renovated strength,
On the unguarded, unsuspecting foe,
Disarm'd, and bent on superstitious rites,
From ev'ry quarter we may rush undaunted,
Give the invaders to the deathful steel,
And by one carnage bury all in ruin.
My valiant friends, haste to your several posts,
And let this night a calm unruffled spirit
Lie hush'd in sleep—Away, my friends, disperse.
Philotas, waits Euphrasia as we order'd ?

Phil. She's here at hand.

Dion. Admit her to our presence.

Rage and despair, a thousand warring passions,
All rise by turns, and piece-meal rend my heart.
Yet ev'ry means, all measures must be tried,
To sweep the Grecian spoiler from the land,
And fix the crown unshaken on my brow.

Enter EUPHRASIA.

Euphra. What sudden cause requires Euphrasia's presence ?

Dion. Approach, fair mourner, and dispel thy fears.
Thy grief, thy tender duty to thy father,
Has touch'd me nearly. In his lone retreat
Respect, attendance, ev'ry lenient care
To soothe affliction, and extend his life,
Evander has commanded.

Euphra. Vile dissembler !
Detested homicide ! (*Aside*)—And has thy heart
Felt for the wretched ?

H

Dion.

50 THE GRECIAN DAUGHTER:

Dion. Urgencies of state
Abridg'd his liberty, ; but to his person
All honour hath been paid.

Euphra. The righteous Gods
Have mark'd thy ways, and will in time repay
Just retribution.

Dion. If to see your father,
If here to meet him in a fond embrace,
Will calm thy breast, and dry those beauteous tears,
A moment more shall bring him to your presence.

Euphra. Ha ! lead him hither ! Sir, to move him now,
Aged, infirm, worn out with toil and years——
No, let me seek him rather—If soft pity
Has touch'd your heart, oh ! send me, send me to him.

Dion. Controul this wild alarm ; with prudent care
Philotas shall conduct him ; here I grant
The tender interview.

Euphra. Disastrous fate !
Ruin impends !—This will discover all ;
I'll perish first ; provoke his utmost rage. (*Aside.*)
Tho' much I languish to behold my father,
Yet now it were not fit—approaching night—
At the first dawn of day—

Dion. This night, this very hour,
You both must meet ; the time forbids delay.
Together you may serve the state and me.
Thou see'st the havock of wide wasting war ;
And more, full well you know, are still to bleed.
Thou may'st prevent their fate.

Euphra. Oh ! give the means,
And I will bless thee for it.

Dion.

Dion. From a Greek,
Torments have wrung the truth. Thy husband, Phocion—

Euphra. Oh! say, speak of my Phocion.

Dion. He; 'tis he
Hath kindled up this war; with treacherous arts
Inflam'd the states of Greece, and now the traitor
Comes with a foreign aid to wrest my crown.

Euphra. And does my Phocion share Timoleon's glory?

Dion. With him invests our walls, and bids rebellion
Erect her standard here.

Euphra. Oh! bless him Gods!
Where'er my hero treads the paths of war,
Lift on his side; against the hostile javelin
Uprear his mighty buckler; to his sword
Lend the fierce whirlwind's rage, that he may come
With wreaths of triumph, and with conquest crown'd,
And his Euphrasia spring with rapture to him,
Melt in his arms, and a whole nation's voice
Applaud my hero with a love like mine!

Dion. Ungrateful fair! Has not our sovereign will
On thy descendant's fix'd Sicilia's crown?
Have I not vow'd protection to your boy?

Euphra. From thee the crown! From thee! Euphrasia's
children
Shall on a nobler basis found their rights,
On their own virtue, and a people's choice.

Dion. Misguided woman!

Euphra. Ask of thee protection!
The father's valour shall protect his boy.

Dion. Rush not on sure destruction; ere too late
Accept our proffer'd grace. The terms are these;

52 THE GRECIAN DAUGHTER:

Instant send forth a message to your husband ;
 Bid him draw off his Greeks ; unmoor his fleet,
 And measure back his way. Full well he knows
 You and your father are my hostages ;
 And for his treason both may answer.

Euphra. Think'st thou then
 So meanly of my Phocion ?—Dost thou deem him
 Poorly wound up to a mere fit of valour,
 To melt away in a weak woman's tear ?
 Oh ! thou dost little know him ; know'st but little
 Of his exalted soul. With gen'rous ardour
 Still will he urge the great, the glorious plan,
 And gain the ever honour'd bright reward,
 Which fame intwines around the patriot's brow,
 And bids for ever flourish on his tomb,
 For nations free'd and tyrants laid in dust.

Dion. By Heav'n, this night Evander breathes his last.

Euphra. Better for him to sink at once to rest,
 Than linger thus beneath the gripe of famine,
 In a vile dungeon scoop'd with barb'rous skill
 Deep in the flinty rock ; a monument
 Of that fell malice, and that black suspicion
 That mark'd your father's reign ; a dungeon drear
 Prepar'd for innocence !—Vice liv'd secure,
 It flourish'd, triumph'd, grateful to his heart ;
 'Twas virtue only could give umbrage ; then,
 In that black period, to be great and good
 Was a state crime ; the pow'rs of genius then
 Were a constructive treason.

Dion. Ha ! beware,
 Nor with vile calumny provoke my rage.

Euphra.

Euphra. Whate'er was laudable, whate'er was worthy,
 Sunk under foul oppression : freeborn men
 Were torn in private from their household gods,
 Shut from the light of Heaven in cavern'd cells,
 Chain'd to the grunsel edge, and left to pine
 In bitterness of soul ; while in the vaulted roof
 The tyrant sat, and through a secret channel
 Collected ev'ry sound ; heard each complaint
 Of martyr'd virtue ; kept a register
 Of sighs and groans by cruelty extorted ;
 Noted the honest language of the heart ;
 Then on the victim's wreak'd his murd'rous rage,
 For yielding to the feelings of their nature.

Dion. Obdurate woman ! obstinate in ill !
 Here ends all parley. Now your father's doom
 Is fix'd ; irrevocably fix'd ; this night
 Thou shalt behold him, while inventive cruelty
 Pursues his wearied life through every nerve.
 I scorn all dull delay. This very night
 Shall fate my great revenge,

[*Exit.*

Euphra. This night perhaps
 Shall whelm thee down, no more to blast creation.
 My father, who inhabit'ft with the dead,
 Now let me seek thee in the lonely tomb,
 And tremble there with anxious hope and fear.

[*Exit.*

Scene the Inside of the Temple.

Enter PHOCION and MELANTHON.

Pho. Each step I move, a grateful terror shakes
 My frame to dissolution.

Melan.

Melan. Summon all

Thy wonted firmness; in that dreary vault

A living king is number'd with the dead.

I'll take my post, near where the pillar'd isle

Supports the central dome, that no alarm

Surprize you in the pious act.

[*Exit.*]

Pho. If here

They both are found; if in Evander's arms

Euphrasia meets my search, the fates atone

For all my suff'rings, all afflictions past.

Yes I will seek them—ha!—the gaping tomb

Invites my steps—now be propitious Heaven!

[*He enters the Tomb.*]

Enter EUPHRASIA.

All hail ye caves of horror!—In this gloom

Divine content can dwell, the heartfelt tear,

Which, as it falls, a father's trembling hand

Will catch, and wipe the sorrows from my eye.

Thou Pow'r supreme! whose all-pervading mind

Guides this great frame of things; who now behold'st me,

Who in that cave of death art full as perfect

As in the gorgeous palace, now, while night

Broods o'er the world, I'll to thy sacred shrine,

And supplicate thy mercies to my father.

Who's there?—Evander?—Answer—quickly say—

Enter PHOCION from the Tomb.

Pho. What voice is that?—Melanthon!—

Euphra. Ha! those sounds!—

Speak of Evander; tell me that he lives,

Or lost Euphrasia dies.

Pho.

Pho. Heart-swelling transport !
Art thou Euphrasia ?—'Tis thy Phocion, love ;
Thy husband comes.——

Euphra. Support me ; reach thy hand——

Pho Once more I clasp her in this fond embrace !

Euphra. What miracle has brought thee to me ?

Pho. Love

Urg'd me on, and guided all my ways.

Euphra. Oh ! thou dear wanderer ! But wherefore here,
Why in this place of woe ?—My tender little one,
Say is he safe ?—Oh ! satisfy a mother ;
Speak of my child, or I go wild at once ;
Tell me his fate, and tell me all thy own.

Pho. Your boy is safe, Euphrasia ; lives to reign
In Sicily ; Timoleon's guardian care
Protects him in his camp ; dispel thy fears ;
The Gods once more will give him to thy arms.

Euphra. My father lives sepulchred ere his time.
Here in Eudocia's tomb ; let me conduct thee——

Pho. I came this moment thence——

Euphra. And saw Evander ?

Pho. Alas ! I found him not.

Euphra. Not found him there !
Have there fell murderers—Oh ! [faints away.]

Pho. I've been too rash ; revive, my love, revive ;
Thy Phocion calls ; the Gods will guard Evander,
And save him to reward thy matchless virtue.

Enter EVANDER and MELANTHON.

Evan. Lead me, Melanthon, guide my aged steps ;
Where is he ? Let me see him.

56 THE GRECIAN DAUGHTER:

Pho. My Euphrasia;
Thy father lives;—thou venerable man!
Behold!—I cannot fly to thy embrace.

Euphra. These agonies must end me—Ah! my father!
Again I have him; gracious Pow'rs! again
I clasp his hand, and bathe it with my tears.

Evan. Euphrasia! Phocion too! Yes, both are here;
Oh! let me thus, thus strain you to my heart.

Pho. Protected by a daughter's tender care,
By my Euphrasia fav'd! That sweet reflection
Exalts the bliss to rapture.

Euphra. Why my father,
Why thus adventure forth?—The strong alarm
O'erwhelm'd my spirits.

Evan. I went forth, my child,
When all was dark, and awful silence round,
To throw me prostrate at the altar's foot,
To crave the care of Heaven for thee and thine.
Melanthon there—

Enter PHILOTAS.

Euphra. Philotas!—ha!—what means—

Philo. Inevitable ruin hovers o'er you:
The tyrant's fury mounts into a blaze;
Unfated yet with blood, he calls aloud
For thee, Evander; thee his rage hath order'd
This moment to his presence.

Evan. Lead me to him:
His presence hath no terror for Evander.

Euphra. Horror!—It must not be.

Philo.

Philo. No; never, never:

I'll perish rather.—But the time demands
Our utmost vigour; with the light'ning's speed
Decisive, rapid.—With the scorpion stings
Of conscience lash'd, despair and horror seize him,
And guilt but serves to goad his tortur'd mind
To blacker crimes. His policy has granted
A day's suspense from arms; yet even now
His troops prepare, in the dead midnight hour,
With base surprize, to storm Timoleon's camp.

Evan. And doth he grant a false insidious truce,
To turn the hour of peace to blood and horror?

Euphra. I know the monster well: when specious
 seeming
Becalms his looks, the rankling heart within
Teems with destruction. Like our own mount *Ætna*,
When the deep snows invest his hoary head,
And a whole winter gathers on his brow,
Looking tranquility; ev'n then beneath
The fuel'd entrails summon all their rage,
Till the affrighted shepherd round him sees
The sudden ruin, the vulcano's burst,
Mountains hurl'd up in air, and molten rocks,
And all the land with desolation cover'd.

Melan. Now, Phocion, now, on thee our hope depends:
Fly to Timoleon—I can grant a passport—
Rouze him to vengeance; on the tyrant turn
His own insidious arts, or all is lost.

Pho. Evander thou, and thou, my best Euphrasia,
Both shall attend my flight.

Melan. They must remain;
Th' attempt would hazard all.

Euphra. Together here
We will remain, safe in the cave of death;
And wait our freedom from thy conqu'ring arm.

Evan. Oh! would the Gods roll back the stream of time,
And give this arm the sinew that it boasted
At Tauromenium, when its force resistless
Mow'd down the ranks of war; I then might guide
The battle's rage, and, ere Evander die,
Add still another laurel to my brow.

Euphra. Enough of laurell'd victory your sword
Hath reap'd in earlier days.

Evan. And shall my sword,
When the great cause of liberty invites,
Remain inactive, unperforming quite?
Youth, second youth rekindles in my veins:
Tho' worn with age, this arm will know it's office;
Will shew that victory has not forgot
Acquaintance with this hand.—And yet—O shame!
It will not be: the momentary blaze
Sinks, and expires.—I have surviv'd it all;
Surviv'd my reign, my people, and myself.

Euphra. Fly, Phocion, fly; Melanthon will conduct thee.

Melan. And when th' assault begins, my faithful cohorts
Shall form their ranks around this sacred dome.

Pho. And my poor captive friends, my brave companions
Taken in battle, wilt thou guard their lives?

Melan. Trust to my care: no danger shall assail them.

Pho. By Heav'n, the glorious expectation swells
This panting bosom!—Yes, Euphrasia, yes;
Awhile I leave you to the care of Heaven.—
Fell Dionysius tremble; ere the dawn

Timoleon

Timoleon thunders at your gates——The rage,
 The pent-up rage of twenty thousand Greeks,
 Shall burst at once; and the tumultuous roar
 Alarm th' astonish'd world. The brazen gates
 Asunder shall be rent; the tow'rs, the ramparts,
 Shall yield to Grecian valour; death and rage
 Thro' the wide city's round shall wade in gore,
 And guilty men awake to gasp their last.
 Melanthon, come.

Evan. Yet, ere thou go'st, young man,
 Attend my words: tho' guilt may oft provoke,
 As now it does, just vengeance on it's head,
 In mercy punish it. The rage of slaughter
 Can add no trophy to the victor's triumph:
 Bid him not shed unnecessary blood.
 Conquest is proud, inexorable, fierce;
 It is humanity ennobles all:
 So thinks Eyander, and so tell Timoleon.

Pho. Farewel; the midnight hour shall give you freedom.

[Exit with Melanthon and Philotas.]

Euphra. Ye guardian Deities, watch all his ways.

Evan. Come, my Euphrasia, in this interval
 Together we will seek the sacred altar,
 And thank the God, whose presence fills the dome,
 For the best gift his bounty could bestow,
 The virtue he has giv'n thee; there we'll pour
 Our hearts in praise, in tears of adoration,
 For all the wond'rous goodness lavish'd on us.

END OF THE FOURTH ACT,

A C T V.

Enter DIONYSIUS and CALIPPUS.

Dion. **E**RE the day clos'd, while yet the busy eye
Might view their camp, their stations and their guards,
Their preparations for approaching night,
Did'st thou then mark the motions of the Greeks?

Calip. From the watch-tour I saw them: all things spoke
A foe secure, and discipline relax'd.
Their arms thrown idly by, the soldiers stray'd
To one another's tents; their steeds no more
Stood near at hand caparison'd for war;
And from the lines numbers pour'd out, to see
The spot, where the besieg'd had sallied forth,
And the fierce battle rag'd; to view the slain
That lie in heaps upon the crimson beach.
There the fond brother, the afflicted father,
And the friend, sought some vestige of the face
Of him who died in battle; night came on;
Some slowly gain'd their tents; dispers'd around
Whole parties loiter'd, touch'd with deep regret;
War, and its train of duties, all forgot.

Dion. Their folly gives them to my sword: are all
My orders issued?

Calip. All.

Dion. The troops retir'd
To gain recruited vigour from repose?

Calip.

Calip. The city round lies hush'd in sleep.

Dion. Anon

Let each brave officer, of chosen valour,
Forsake his couch, and with delib'rate spirit,
Meet at the citadel.—An hour at furthest
Before the dawn, 'tis fix'd to storm their camp;
And whelm their men, their arms, and steeds, and tents,
In one prodigious ruin. Haste, Calippus,
Fly to thy post, and bid Euphrasia enter. [*Exit Calippus.*
Evander dies this night: Euphrasia too
Shall be dispos'd of. Curse on Phocion's fraud,
That from my pow'r withdrew their infant boy.
In him the seed of future kings were crush'd,
And the whole hated line at once extinguish'd.

Enter EUPHRASIA.

Dion. Once more approach and hear me; 'tis not now
A time to waste in the vain war of words.
A crisis big with horror is at hand.
I meant to spare the stream of blood, that soon
Shall deluge yonder plains. My fair proposals
Thy haughty spirit has with scorn rejected.
And now, by Heav'n, here, in thy very sight,
Evander breathes his last.

Euphra. The truce you've granted
Suspends the rage of war: meantime send forth
The orators of peace with olive crown'd.
Timoleon, good and just, and ever willing
To conquer rather by persuasive truth,
Than by devouring slaughter, will agree
In friendly parley to assert his rights,
And compromise the war.

Dion.

62 THE GRECIAN DAUGHTER.

Dion. And must I sue
For terms of peace?—To an invader sue?
Since you, the fiend of Syracuse and Greece,
Since you thus urge me on to desp'rate daring,
Your father first—of him I'll be assur'd—
Your father meets his fate.

Euphra. If yet there's wanting
A crime to fill the measure of thy guilt,
Add that black murder to the dreadful list;
With that complete the horrors of thy reign.

Dion. Woman, beware: Philotas is at hand,
And to our presence leads Evander. All
Thy dark complottings, and thy treach'rous arts,
Have prov'd abortive.

Euphra. Ha!—What new event?
And is Philotas false?—Has he betray'd him? [*Aside.*

Dion. Evander's doom is seal'd—What ho! Philotas!
Now shalt thou see him die in pangs before thee.

Enter PHILOTAS.

Euphra. How my heart sinks within me!

Dion. Where's your pris'ner?

Philo. Evander is no more.

Dion. Ha!—Death has robbed me
Of half my great revenge.

Philo. Worn out with anguish
I saw life ebb apace. With studied art
We gave each cordial drop—Alas! in vain;
He heav'd a sigh; invok'd his daughter's name,
Smil'd and expir'd.

Dion.

Dion. Bring me his hoary head.

Philo. You'll pardon, Sir, my over-hasty zeal.
I gave the body to the foaming surge
Down the steep rock despis'd.

Dion. Now rave and shriek,
And rend your scatter'd hair. No more Evander
Shall sway Sicilia's sceptre.

Euphra. Mighty Gods!
The harden'd heart, the man elate with pride
View with compassion! To the bad extend
Some portion of your mercy; crimes and blood
Have made their souls a seat of desolation,
Of woe, despair and horror! Turn to them
An eye of pity: whom your bounty form'd
To truth, to goodness, and to gen'rous deeds,
On them no more from your bright stores of bliss
You need dispense: their virtue will support them.

Dion. Now then thou feel'st my vengeance.

Euphra. Glory in it;
Exult and triumph. Thy worst shaft is sped.
Yet still th' unconquer'd mind with scorn can view thee;
With the calm sunshine of the breast beholds
Thy pow'r unequal to subdue the soul,
Which virtue form'd, and which the Gods protect.

Dion. Philotas, bear her hence; she shall not live;
This moment bear her hence; you know the rest;
Go, see our will obey'd; that done, with all
A warrior's speed attend me at the citadel;
There meet the heroes, whom this night I'll lead
To freedom, victory, to glorious havock,
To the destruction of the Grecian name.

[Exit.
Euphra.

64 THE GRECIAN DAUGHTER:

Euphra. Accept my thanks, Philotas; generous man!
These tears attest th' emotions of my heart.
But oh! should Greece defer——

Philo. Dispel thy fears;
Phocion will bring relief; or should the tyrant
Assault their camp, he'll meet a marshall'd foe.
Let me conduct thee to the silent tomb.

Euphra. Ah! there Evander, naked and disarm'd,
Defenceless quite, may meet some ruffian stroke.

Philo. Lo! here's a weapon; bear this dagger to h?
In the drear monument should hostile steps
Dare to approach him, they must enter singly;
This guards the passage; man by man they die.
There may'st thou dwell amidst the wild commotion.

Euphra. Ye pitying Gods, protect my father then!

[*Exeunt.*]

Scene the Citadel.

CALIPPUS and several Officers.

First Officer. What new event thus summons' us together?

Calip. 'Tis great occasion calls;—Timoleon's ardor
Comes rushing on; his works rise high in air,
Advance each day, and tow'r above our walls.
One brave exploit may free us——Lo! the king.

Enter DIONYSIUS.

Dion. Ye brave associates, who so oft have shar'd
Our toil and danger in the field of glory,
My fellow-warriors, what no god could promise,

Fortune

Fortune hath giv'n us.—In his dark embrace
 Lo! sleep envelops the whole Grecian camp.
 Against a foe, the outcasts of their country;
 Freebooters roving in pursuit of prey,
 Success by war, or covert stratagem
 Alike is glorious. Then, my gallant friends,
 What need of words? The gen'rous call of freedom;
 Your wives, your children, your invaded rights,
 All that can steel the patriot breast with valour,
 Expands and rouses in the swelling heart.
 Follow th' impulsive ardour; follow me,
 Your king, your leader; in the friendly gloom
 Of night assault their camp; your country's love,
 And fame eternal, shall attend the men
 Who march'd through blood and horror, to redeem
 From the invader's pow'r, their native land.

Calip. Lead to the onset; Greece shall find we bear
 Hearts prodigal of blood, when honour calls,
 Resolv'd to conquer or to die in freedom.

Dion. Thus I've resolv'd: when the declining moon
 Hath veil'd her orb, our silent march begins.
 The order thus:—Calippus, thou lead forth
 Iberia's sons with the Numidian bands,
 And line the shore.—Perdiccas, be it thine
 To march thy cohorts to the mountain's foot,
 Where the wood skirts the valley; there make halt
 Till brave Amyntor stretch along the vale.
 Ourself, with the embodied cavalry
 Clad in their mail'd cuirass, will circle round
 To where their camp extends its furthest line;
 Unnumber'd torches there shall blaze at once,
 The signal of the charge; then, oh! my friends,
 On every side let the wild uproar loose,

66 THE GRECIAN DAUGHTER:

Bid massacre and carnage stalk around,
Unsparring, unrelenting; drench your swords
In hostile blood, and riot in destruction.

Enter an Officer.

Dion. Ha! speak; unfold thy purpose.—

Off. Instant arm;

To arms, my liege; the foe breaks in upon us;
The subterraneous pass is theirs; that way
Their band invades the city sunk in sleep.

Dion. Treason's at work; detested, treach'rous villains!
Is this their promis'd truce? Away, my friends,
Rouze all the war; fly to your sev'ral posts,
And instant bring all Syracuse in arms.

[Exeunt. Warlike Music.]

Enter MELANTHON.

Calip. Melanthon, now collect your faithful bands.

Melan. Do thou pursue the King; attend his steps:
Timoleon lords it in the captive city. *[Exit CALIPPUS.]*

Enter PHILOTAS.

Melan. Philotas, vengeance has begun its work.

Philo. The Gods have sent relief; dismay, and terror,
And wild amaze, and death in ev'ry shape,
Fill the affrighted city.

Melan. Tyrant, now

Th' inevitable hour of fate is come.

Philotas, round the dome that holds Evander

We will arrange our men; there fix our post,

And guard that spot, till, like some God, Timoleon

Still the wild uproar, and bid slaughter cease. *[Exeunt.]*

Scene another Part of the City.

Enter DIONYSIUS.

Why sleep the coward slaves? All things conspire;
The Gods are leagu'd; I see them raze my tow'rs;
My walls and bulwarks fall, and Neptune's trident
From its foundation heaves the solid rock.
Pallas directs the storm; her gorgon shield
Glares in my view, and from the fleet she calls
Her Greeks enrag'd — In arms I'll meet 'em all.
What, ho! my guards—Arise, or wake no more.

Enter CALIPPUS.

Calip. This way, my liege; our friends, a valiant band,
Assemble here.

Dion. Give me to meet the Greek.
Our only safety lies in brave despair, [*Exeunt.*

Scene the Inside of the Temple.

A Monument in the Middle.

EUPHRASIA, ERIXENE, and Female Attendants,

Euphra. Which way, Erixene, which way, my virgins,
Shall we direct our steps? What sacred altar
Clasp on our knees?

Erix. Alas! the horrid tumult
Spreads the destruction wide. On ev'ry side
The victor's shouts, the groans of murder'd wretches,
In wild confusion rise. Once more descend
Eudocia's tomb; there thou may'st find a shelter.

Euphra. Anon, Erixene, I mean to visit,
Perhaps for the last time, a mother's urn.
This dagger there, this instrument of death,

68 THE GRECIAN DAUGHTER:

Should Fortune prosper the fell tyrant's arms,
This dagger then may free me from his pow'r,
And that drear vault intomb us all in peace.

[*Puts up the dagger.*]

Hark!—how the uproar swells! Alas what numbers
In Dionysius' cause shall yield t^h throats
To the destructive sword!—Aloft I climb'd
The temple's vaulted roof; the scene beneath
Is horrible to sight; our domes and palaces
Blaze to the sky; and where the flames forbear,
The Greeks enrag'd brandish the gleaming sword.
From the high roofs, to shun the raging fire,
Wretches precipitate their fall. But oh!
No pause, no mercy; to the edge o'th' sword
They give their bodies; butcher'd, gash'd with wounds
They die in mangled heaps, and with their limbs
Cover the sanguine pavement.

Erix. Hark!

Euphra. The Din

Of arms with clearer sound advances. Ha!
That sudden burst! Again! They rush upon us!
The portal opens—Lo! see there—The soldier
Enters; war invades the sacred fane;
No altar gives a sanctuary now.

[*War-like music.*]

Enter DIONYSIUS and CALIPPUS, with several Soldiers.

Dion. Here will I mock their siege; here stand at bay,
And brave 'em to the last.

Calip. Our weary foes
Desist from the pursuit.

Dion. Tho' all betray me,
Tho' ev'ry God conspire, I will not yield.

If I must fall, the temple's pond'rous roof,
 The mansion of the Gods combin'd against me
 Shall first be crush'd, and lie in ruin with me,
 Euphrasia here ! Detested, treach'rous woman !
 For my revenge preserv'd ! By Heav'n 'tis well ;
 Vengeance awaits thy guilt, and this good sword
 Thus seals thee to atone the bleeding victims
 That night has massacred.

Calip. (Holding Dionysius's arm) My liege forbear ;
 Her life preserv'd may plead your cause with Greece,
 And mitigate your fate.

Dion. Presumptuous slave !
 My rage is up in arms——By Heav'n she dies.——

Enter EVANDER from the Tomb.

Evan. Open, thou cave of death, and give me way.
 Horror ! forbear ! Thou murd'rer hold thy hand !
 'The Gods behold thee, horrible assassin !
 Restrain the blow ;—it were a stab to Heav'n ;
 All nature shudders at it !—Will no friend
 Arm in a cause like this a father's hand ?
 Strike at this bosom rather. Lo ! Evander
 Prostrate and groveling on the earth before thee ;
 He begs to die ; exhaust the scanty drops
 That lag about his heart ; but spare my child.

Dion. Evander !—Do my eyes once more behold him ?
 May the fiends seize Philotas ! Treach'rous slave !
 'Tis well thou liv'st ; thy death were poor revenge
 From any hand but mine. *(Offers to strike.)*

Euphra. No, tyrant, no ; *(Rushing before EVANDER.)*
 I have provok'd your vengeance ; through this bosom
 Open a passage ; first on me, on me

Exhaust

70 THE GRECIAN DAUGHTER:

Exhaust your fury; ev'ry Pow'r above
Commands thee to respect that aged head;
His wither'd frame wants blood to glut thy rage;
Strike here; these veins are full; here's blood enough;
The purple tide will gush to glad thy fight.

Dion. Amazement blasts and freezes ev'ry pow'r!
They shall not live. Ha! the fierce tide of war

(A flourish of trumpets.)

This way comes rushing on.

(Goes to the top of the stage.)

Euphra. (*Embracing EVANDER*) Oh! thus, my father,
We'll perish thus together.

Dion. Bar the gates;
Close ev'ry passage, and repel their force.

Evan. And must I see thee bleed?—Oh! for a sword!
Bring, bring me daggers!

Euphra. Ha!

Dion. (*Coming down the stage*) Guards seize the slave,
And give him to my rage.

Evan. (*Seiz'd by the guards*) Oh! spare her, spare her.
Inhuman villains!—

Euphra. Now one glorious effort! *(Aside.)*

Dion. Let me dispatch; thou traitor, thus my arm—

Euphra. A daughter's arm, fell monster, strikes the
blow.

Yes, first she strikes; an injur'd daughter's arm
Sends thee devoted to th' infernal gods. *(Stabs him.)*

Dion. Detested fiend!—Thus by a woman's hand!—
(He falls.)

Euphra. Yes, tyrant, yes; in a dear father's cause
A woman's vengeance tow'rs above her sex,

Dion. May curses blast thy arm ! May *Ætna's* fires
Convulse the land ; to its foundation shake
The groaning isle ! May civil discord bear
Her flaming brand through all the realms of Greece ;
And the whole race expire in pangs like mine ! (*Dies.*)

Euphra. Behold, all Sicily behold !—The point
Glows with the tyrant's blood. Ye slaves, (*to the guards*)
look there ;

Kneel to your rightful king : the blow for freedom
Gives you the rights of men !—And, oh ! my father,
My ever honour'd sire, it gives thee life.

Evan. My child ; my daughter ; fav'd again by thee !
(*He embraces her.*)

A flourish of trumpets.

Enter PHOCION, MELANTHON, PHILOTAS, &c.

Pho. Now let the monster yield.—My best Euphrasia !

Euphra. My lord ! my Phocion ! welcome to my heart.
Lo ! there the wonders of Euphrasia's arm !

Pho. And is the proud one fall'n ! The dawn shall see
him

A spectacle for public view.—Euphrasia !

Evander too !—Thus to behold you both——

Evan. To her direct thy looks ; there fix thy praise,
And gaze with wonder there. The life I gave her—
Oh ! she has us'd it for the noblest ends !
To fill each duty ; make her father feel
The purest joy, the heart-dissolving bliss
To have a grateful child,——But has the rage
Of slaughter ceas'd ?

Pho.

72 THE GRECIAN DAUGHTER;

Pho. It has.

Evan. Where is Timoleon?

Pho. He guards the citadel ; there gives his orders
To calm the uproar, and recall from carnage
His conqu'ring troops.

Euphra. Oh ! once again, my father,
Thy sway shall bless the land. Not for himself
Timoleon conquers ;—to redress the wrongs
Of bleeding Sicily the hero comes.
Thee, good Melanthon, thee, thou gen'rous man,
His justice shall reward — Thee too, Philotas,
Whose sympathizing heart could feel the touch
Of soft humanity, the hero's bounty,
His brightest honours, shall be lavish'd on thee.
Evander too will place you near his throne ;
And shew mankind, ev'n on this shore of being,
That virtue still shall meet its sure reward.

Philo. I am rewarded : feelings such as mine
Are worth all dignities ; my heart repays me.

Evan. Come, let us seek Timoleon ; to his care
I will commend ye both : for now, alas !
Thrones and dominions now no more for me.
To her I give my crown. Yes, thou, Euphrasia,
Shalt reign in Sicily.—And oh ! ye Pow'rs,
In that bright eminence of care and peril,
Watch over all her ways ; conduct and guide
The goodness you inspir'd, that she may prove,
If e'er distress like mine invade the land,
A parent to her people ; stretch the ray
Of filial piety to times unborn,
That men may hear her unexampled virtue,
And learn to emulate THE GRECIAN DAUGHTER !

F I N I S.

P O S T S C R I P T.

THE Tragedy, here offered to the Public, is founded on a passage in VALERIUS MAXIMUS*. We are told by that author, "That a woman of ingenuous birth was convicted before the PRÆTOR of a capital crime, and delivered over to the TRIUMVIR to be put to death in prison. The jailer received her into his custody, but, touched with compassion, did not proceed immediately to execute the sentence. His humanity went so far as to admit the daughter of the unhappy criminal into the goal; but not without a previous search, lest any nourishment should be secretly conveyed. To starve the prisoner to death was his design. Several days passed, when it became matter of wonder how the poor woman subsisted so long. The jailer's curiosity was excited: he watched the daughter narrowly, and saw her give her breast to the famished mother, and with her milk supply the cravings of nature. Touched by the novelty of so affecting a sight, he made his report to the TRIUMVIR, from whom it reached the PRÆTOR, and, the whole matter being referred to the JUDICIAL MAGISTRATES, the mother received a free pardon. What will not filial piety undertake?—What place will it not penetrate?—What will it not devise, when in a dungeon it finds unheard of means to preserve a parent's life?—Is there, in the course of human affairs, a scene so big with wonder, as a mother nourished at the daughter's breast?—The incident might, at the first view, be thought repugnant to the order of nature, if TO LOVE OUR PARENTS were not the FIRST LAW stamped by the hand of Nature on the human heart." Thus far VALERIUS MAXIMUS: He goes on in the same place, and tells a Greek tale, in which the heroine performs the same act of piety to a father in the decline of life. For the purposes of the drama, the latter story has been preferred. The painters long since seized the subject;

L

and

* Vide Valer. Max. lib. 5, c. 4, de Pietate in Parentes. 7.

P O S T C R I P T.

and by them it has been called **ROMAN CHARITY**. The Author has taken the liberty to place it in the reign of **DIONYSIUS** the Younger, at the point of time when **TIMOLEON** laid siege to **SYRACUSE**. The general effect, it was thought, would be better produced, if the whole had an air of real history.

*Atque ita mentitur, sic veris falsa remiscet,
Primo ne medium, medio ne discrepet inum.*

The Author does not wish to conceal that the subject of this Tragedy has been touched in some foreign pieces: but he thinks it has been *only* touched. The **ZELMIRE** of **MONS. BELLOY** begins after the daughter has delivered her father out of prison. The play indeed has many beauties; and if the sentiments and business of that piece coincided with the design of **THE GRECIAN DAUGHTER**, the Author would not have blushed to walk in the same tract. But a new fable was absolutely necessary: and, perhaps in the present humour of the times, it is not unlucky that no more than three lines could be adopted from **MONS. BELLOY**. Every writer, who makes up a story with characters and incidents already hackneyed on the English stage, and invents nothing, cries out with an air of triumph, That he has not borrowed from the wits of **FRANCE**. In the Isle of Man, it is said, there is an epitaph in these words: “*He who lies here interred, was never out of this island.*” The poor man was to be pitied: a similar inscription upon the tomb stone of a modern poet, would, perhaps, do as little honour to the memory of the deceased.

The Author cannot dismiss his Play, without declaring that, though in love with the subject, he has not satisfied even his own ideas of the drama: he laments that he had neither time nor ability to make it better. To heighten it with additional beauties was reserved for the decorations with which the zeal of **MR. GARRICK** has embellished the representation; for the admirable performance of **MR. BARRY**; and, above all, for the enchanting powers and the genius of **Mrs. BARRY**.

*Lincoln's Inn,
Feb. 29, 1772.*

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| The Maid of the Mill, an Opera — — — | 0 | 1 | 6 |
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| The Plain Dealer, a Comedy — — — | 0 | 1 | 6 |
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| 'Tis well it's no Worse, a Comedy — — — | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| The West Indian, a Comedy — — — | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| The Fashionable Lover, a Comedy — — — | 0 | 1 | 6 |
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